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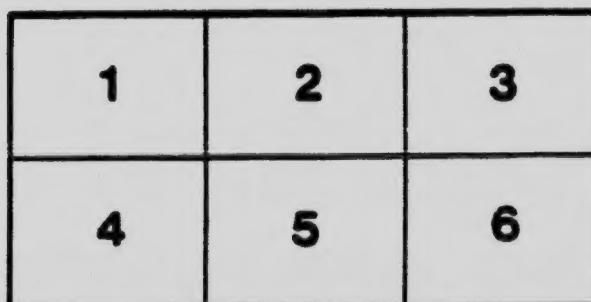
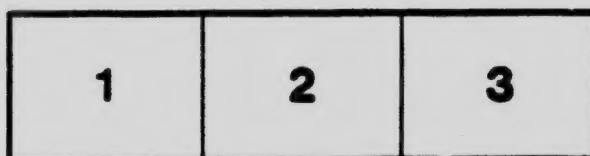
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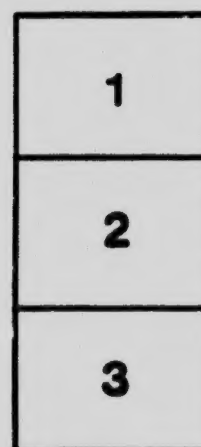
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Col. A. A. A.
Chas. F. F. F.
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SPEECH

OF THE

Hon. J. R. Stratton

ON

THE MOTION TO ADOPT

THE

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Appointed to Investigate the Gamey
Charges Against the Government,

With Extended Reference to the Evidence taken before
the Commissioners.

HON. MR. STRATTON'S SPEECH

The following is an extended report of the speech of Hon. J. R. Stratton, Provincial Secretary, in the Ontario Legislature, on June 18th, upon the motion to adopt the report of the Royal Commission appointed to investigate what is known as the "Gamey Charges." Hon. Mr. Stratton on rising to speak, was enthusiastically applauded by the members of the Government side of the House. He said.—

Mr. Speaker:—In addressing myself to a consideration of the circumstances connected with the resolution now before the House, I must crave the indulgence of the members in being permitted a few personal references, which seem pertinent to the occasion. I have, it will be admitted, been the centre of attention in regard to certain matters for the past ten or twelve weeks. Few men in public life have been placed in a position similar to that in which the events of the 11th of March last placed me. The member for Manitoulin on that occasion made one of the most extraordinary statements ever made on the floor of a Legislative Chamber; extraordinary, not only in the light which subsequent events have thrown upon it, but extraordinary in its audacity of misstatement, and as a structure of malignant fiction, built on harmless fact; extraordinary as a statement prepared with apparent deliberate design, and, as is stated in an article in the Mail and Empire of April 12th, prepared by the member for Manitoulin, "acting on legal advice." It was a statement involving charges, made by the member for Manitoulin on his responsibility as a member of the House—a story which, under one of the most searching, thorough and persistent investigations ever conducted under the highest judicial auspices of this country, was proven to be unfounded in fact, as far as the essential and material character of the charges its language clothed, were or are concerned. (Applause.)

UNHALLOWED REJOICING.

His statement was not only extraordinary in the character of its intention but in the manner of its reception by the member's political friends in the Legislature.

As the speaker dealt out his

charges, which, if true were a humiliation to the country, and should, as the honourable member for West York remarked, during a subsequent debate, "cause every honourable member of the House, and every honourable citizen of the province to hang their heads in shame," what was the attitude of his fellow members of the Opposition? Were their heads bowed in sorrow over the revelations of the man from Manitoulin? No. On the contrary their faces were radiant with unholy joy. They seemed to be seized with convulsions of delight. They pounded their desks uproariously. What was the cause of their jubilation? Would it be unfair to suggest that they were delighted with the apparent success of a plot which would destroy the Government and bring the Conservative Opposition to the power they had coveted so long, the power they have in the past attempted to compass by futile plots, base intrigue and all the persuasive effects of corrupting influences. They hailed Mr. Gamey's concocted story as the dawning of a brighter day. No matter how the good name of the province was sullied, no matter how the honour of a Minister of the Crown might be tarnished, so long as the base charges of the member for Manitoulin, seemed to be a stepping stone to power, there was cause for rejoicing. And they did rejoice. In the excitement of their new-born hopes, they figuratively clasped Mr. Gamey to their bosoms, but when the floodlights of investigation were poured upon the scene, when the structure Mr. Gamey had built upon the shifting sand of unsupported statement, was tested, it collapsed like a bubble, and the builder shared the fate of those who fail. (Applause) The man who was embraced

as a hero during the month of March, who was lauded as a self-sacrificing patriot, was dropped in April, dropped into disfavour, and "none so poor to do him reverence."

GAMEY'S EPHEMERAL POPULARITY.

At a banquet given in honour of the member for West York on Friday, March 20th, among the "distinguished Conservatives supporting the chairman were Messrs. J. W. St. John, M.P.P., R. R. Gamey, M.P.P.,—reclining on the bosom of the guest of honour—and others."

The Mail and Empire report states:

"GAMEY GETS WARM RECEPTION."

"The ovation that Mr. R. R. Gamey, M.P.P. for Manitoulin, received on rising to respond to the toast, 'The Province,' must have warmed the very cockles of his heart. Every one of the two hundred stalwarts present cheered until his throat was sore. They waved napkins, they sang 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow,' and they cheered again, and sang, and cheered until Mr. Gamey blushed like a timid girl, and when the man of the hour had finished a brilliant address the enthusiasm broke out afresh. Such a scene was a most striking indication of the admiration the Conservatives of West York feel for the strength of character shown by the member for Manitoulin in his impeachment of the Ontario Government."

Even the member for Manitoulin, with all his faults, had better taste and more fairness than some of his confreres who spoke on that occasion, for he "declined to speak on the matter then being discussed in the House." The transient popularity of the member for Manitoulin is easily accounted for. He was hailed as the Moses that was to lead the Israelites of the Opposition into the Promised Land of Power. It may not be that all the members of the Conservative Opposition had full knowledge of the plot or plan of the member for Manitoulin to entrap the Government and compass its overthrow, but it seems certain that many of the leading lights of the party had sufficient knowledge of the scheme to give it the character of a conspiracy—they took the chief manipulator to their hearts, they submitted the precious documents to eminent counsel. Careful examination of these documents evidently showed that they could not be of service to prove the charges that had been based upon them, and according-

ly the leader of the Opposition sought to be relieved of the heavy responsibility he had assumed in accepting the precious bundle of documents delivered to him on March 11th by the member for Manitoulin with so much dramatic display, and with as ostentatious solicitude for their safety as if they had been the title deeds to the Premiership of Ontario, (applause). This, indeed, was the first hope entertained as shown by the portions of the Mail and Empire report as to the manner of reception of the fairy tale of the member for Manitoulin:

Mail and Empire, March 12th, 1903:

"The scene was one dramatic in its intensity. There was a silence as of death in the Chamber, as page after page was turned over by Mr. Gamey, a silence broken only on the Opposition side of the House when each fresh point scored drew forth a round of vigorous applause."

"Amid the wild applause of the Conservative members, Mr. Gamey walked with deliberation up the floor of the House, and, passing in front of Mr. Whitney, laid the mass of manuscript and the bundle of bills on his desk."

"I ask the honourable member what he wishes me to do with these documents?" said Mr. Whitney, rising.

"Mr. Gamey answered, 'You can do just what you like, but I think you should not part with them under any circumstances.' And with these words the man from Manitoulin turned and walked back to his place."

WHITNEY'S WILLINGNESS TO PROFIT.

What more conclusive evidence can be asked to show that the leader of the Opposition was willing to co-operate in the working of the plot, to reap all the party advantage possible, up to the time when close examination and analysis of the document by counsel showed the hopelessness of succeeding in the event of impartial and unpartizan investigation. For, on March 16th, these precious papers, which were guarded so jealously a day or two before that Mr. Whitney refused to place them in the custody of the Speaker, were returned to the member for Manitoulin, who, I shall not say, stole them out of the House, but stole out of the House with them. (Applause.) to the evident relief of the leader of the Opposition, who in a too trusting moment, had accepted a trusteeship which, upon investigation, threatened to be so embarrassing a charge that he insisted that the responsibility would be placed up-

on the shoulders of the visible figurehead of the conspiracy. Why this, unless Mr. Whitney having in the meantime learned that the documents upon expert examination would not bear out the statements and charges made, wished to escape the odium of the failure of the plot, which at this early date was foredoomed to the failure that eventually resulted, and he turned the member for Manitoulin over to his legal advisers and to his own devices. Subsequent events fully justified his leader's lack of faith. The leader of the Opposition, however, was ready to accept the word of an unknown man, bringing charges against public men, many of them with almost a quarter of a century of useful and upright public life, and to enjoy the fruits of the plotting of his henchman and his paid advisers, but he was careful to avoid the responsibility; and the member for South Toronto assisted him.

The latter combatted the Attorney General's contention that the leader of the Opposition was the trustee for the House of the papers. He even used an argument which implied that the Opposition leader was not a safe trustee of the documents, for he asserted that the member for Manitoulin wanted to go into the box and be sure of producing these papers before the Chief Justices and not depend upon anyone else, not even his leader, to produce them. (Applause.)

MR. WHITNEY'S LOSS OF FAITH.

This practical evidence of the loss of faith on the part of the leader of the Opposition in the value of the story of the member for Manitoulin did not, however, deter him and his followers from making the fullest as well as basest use of it. As an instrument in the hands of the party managers the member for Manitoulin may not have done his work well, yet the occasion was one that must be made use of for political purposes. Though the prosecution of what is known as the Gamey charges did not promise much, yet that prosecution must go on. It must go on for the sake of appearances. And it had to go on for another and more important reason. The Government, seeing the monstrous and malignant nature of the charges, insisted upon immediate, complete and thorough investi-

gation. The Government knew that the charges could not be sustained, but they must be investigated. They had been made with daring circumstantiality in the open day on the floor of the House. The charges had been flaunted in the face of the public through the press and with all the distortion and false colouring which a malignant, partizan press, and a section of the yet more malignant independent press, could give them. (Applause.)

PREJUDGING THE MATTER.

Meantime, Sir, the Conservative party in the House and the Conservative press in the country, and the treacherous independent press were to make the best party use possible of the practically discarded charges which the leader of the Opposition had returned to the member for Manitoulin. The occasion was too good to be lost. The Opposition members might not be able to prove the charges, but they could use the privilege of the House to accept the charges as true, to assert and spread abroad the guilt of the persons charged. No opportunity was omitted to prejudice the case pending its submission to the commission, and while the hearing in connection with the charges was actually going on. Everybody on the Government side was pronounced guilty and condemned on the bare ipse dixit of the member for Manitoulin. (Applause.) What more clearly shows the utter disregard of fair dealing, fair argument and their haste to assume guilt without proof? They sought to prejudice the case and unduly inflame and influence public opinion by rabid denunciation of the members of the Government. With monumental hypocrisy they sought to show an interest in the promotion of political parity by condemning political corruption which did not exist except in the diseased imagination of the tool of the Opposition party managers. The first action of the Government on the presentation of the charges was to provide for immediate and thorough investigation. What was the tactics of the Opposition? To frustrate and delay this course. Three solid weeks were consumed in bringing about a result which could, with amicable concurrence and co-operation, have been accomplished in three

hours. So anxious was the Opposition to purify politics, so anxious to elicit the truth of the serious charges made, that they must take the fullest opportunity to outrage the principles of British fair play, of British justice, by condemning the accused without trial or hearing, and declaring them guilty. Every means was lawful to them to prejudice the public mind against the Government. And in one sense they were not much to be blamed. That was their only chance to make political capital out of the occasion. (Applause.)

HOLLOWNESS OF CHARGES EVIDENT.

After the first burst of enthusiasm over the pretended revelations of the man from Manitoulin, after a little cool reflection, after a little investigation into the merits of the charges, their proof was seen to be hopeless and when proof was wanting assertion must take its place. An effort must be made and was made to snatch from public opinion a verdict which could not be got from judicial investigation of the charges. That I may not lay myself open to a similar charge I ask permission to submit proof of what I assert. I have referred to the gleeful manner in which the Opposition received the gravest charges ever made on the floor of this House. The leader of the Opposition, speaking on March 13th, according to the Mail and Empire report said:—

OPPOSITION'S BASE CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY.

"The Minister of Public Works can surely have no possible denial to the charge that the honourable member for Manitoulin was being unduly influenced to support the Government.—"

Unabashed by the indignant denial of the Commissioner of Public Works, the honourable gentleman continues in the same strain:—

"I say with all possible confidence, believing that all reasonable men who listen to me now agree with me on this point, that the people accused by my honourable friend yesterday and who will find it necessary to make their defence before the bar of the people of the Province, include more than the Provincial Secretary, they include three other members of the Government."

The Honourable member for Dundas in continuation accepted, as a fact a statement which has since been

entirely disproved. (Applause.) Referring to the correspondence in the Gamey charges he says, according to the Globe report:—

"The correspondence, in addition to what I have stated, establishes the fact conclusively that not only was Gamey promised it, but that he exercised the patronage, he did exercise patronage, the first Conservative member that ever did it in the history of this or any other country under a Liberal Government."

On March 17th, the member for West York asserts:—

"There is a strong conviction in the minds of the people of the Province that the trail which leads direct to the door of the Provincial Secretary's office will also be found to lead to other members of the Government."

On March 19th, the member for Centre Bruce said:—

"That the large majority of the people of the Province of Ontario believed that the charges made by the member for Manitoulin against the Provincial Secretary and other members of the Government were absolutely true."

CONSERVATIVE IDEAS OF HONOUR.

Further on in the same speech he said:—

"A deliberate attempt was being made to bring discredit upon Mr. Gamey, but he would tell those who were trying to do so that Mr. Gamey was no worse now than he was three weeks ago, when he had been bought, or rather when they thought he had been. They might not approve of the methods taken by Mr. Gamey, but they were the only ones that could be taken to catch the criminals and were perfectly legitimate."

The honourable member for North Toronto, speaking on March 21st, according to the Mail and Empire report, said:—

"The charge was not one against the Provincial Secretary only. The whole Government stood self-convicted, both by the statement of the Minister of Public Works and the silence of the other members, of trafficking in the honour of members of the House. The crime was not the payment of a sum of money by the Provincial Secretary, it was the crime of the whole Government seeking to buy the support of a member."

And further on in his address he said:—

"The House has seen the extraordinary spectacle of the Premier, with his 30 years of Parliamentary experience,

standing in his place and with clenched fist threatening the member for Manitoulin, a new and untried member, that he would be called to account for his statements made on the floor of the House. The people could best decide who should be called to account—the man who had courageously and nobly done his duty, or the cringing, crawling, crawfishing, commission-hunting Government.

OPPOSITION PREJUDGMENT.

But the Opposition members of the House were not the only offenders. The Opposition party press and the treacherous independent press were far greater sinners against the spirit of fair play. Two or three rabid journals of the party class and one or two professed independent journals out-Heroded Herod in the matter of prejudgment. They had me neatly hanged, drawn and quartered. They had the members of the Government in irons before a word of evidence was presented, and every day all through the investigation the reports printed and the prejudiced headings given them, the editorial remarks often violent, always asserted more or less directly and insidiously the guilt of the accused Minister and of the Government as a whole. To judge by the foul insinuations and unfair deductions and direct statements of these journals, repeated from day to day, it was clear that the accusations of Mr. Gagey were regarded in advance as true and that they felt that "the man from Manitoulin" would not only overthrow the Ross Government, but emerge from the investigation, not only a hero but with the halo of sainthood surrounding and illuminating the brows of the patriot and saint. (Applause.) The Mail and Empire, the chief Conservative organ, was a conspicuous offender. In its issue of March 12th, it put forth Mr. Gagey's statement with the sensational headlines, "THE ROSS GOVERNMENT TRAPPED," and introduced its "disclosure" with the following bombastic paragraph:—

"Had a second Mount Pelée burst beneath the Government benches in the Ontario Legislature yesterday the physical devastation it would have caused would be a fitting comparison for the mental consternation wrought in the Government: as by the astounding revelations made by R. R. Gagey, M. P., for Manitoulin Island. The stat-

tering crash of a death-dealing thunderbolt from a smiling and cloudless summer sky could not be more startlingly unexpected than the amazing disclosures which awed members and spectators alike with a realization of the depth of corruption which had been reached by a political party resolved upon maintaining its grip upon office, no matter by what desperate means."

MAIL'S ATTEMPT TO PERVERT PUBLIC MIND.

Then we have all through its reports of the proceedings in the House commenting headlines, prejudging the Government's course and action: "Commissioners are Named, Enquiry to be Restricted," Chancellor Boyd and Chief Justice Falconbridge to Investigate Charges. "Will be Hampered by Instructions—Liberal Members slow to Support Government's Stand." Another day the headlines declare:—"Commission's Terms Violate Statute"—"Government Seeking Methods to Escape." And another day:—"Government Climbs Down—Admits Gross Deception (which it did not admit)—Trying to Cover up Conspiracy Charge." Then another day:—"Accused Cabinet Muzzle the House—Government Refuses to widen scope of Commission" (which as a matter of fact it did not do.) And still another:—"Seeking to Escape Through Ambiguity—Government Trying to Evade Conspiracy Charge." (As a matter of fact the conspiracy charge, as it was called, was embraced in the terms of the Commission.) It would be impracticable to enter into details of the manner in which the organ sought to colour the case while it was under investigation. It would involve reading a good part of nearly every issue dealing with that subject, during the course of the investigation.

CULMINATES IN CONTEMPT OF COURT.

It is well known to all who read this journal that it was a most persistent and constant offender, and continued till its offences culminated in an especially offensive article on April 24th, which procured the proprietors the honour of being summoned before the Commissioners to answer a charge of contempt of Court and be put upon their good behaviour in future. This article, which was printed separately from the report of the proceedings of the investiga-

tion, was plainly a gratuitous attempt to spread throughout the country as established facts the idea of my connection with the alleged bribery funds. This outrageous article was embellished with such headings as these:—"Startling Discoveries Made by Lawyers in Gamey Case." "Ontario Bank Cashed \$3,000 Cheque, Two Days Before Date on Which Gamey was Bribed." "Cheque was Drawn by Trust Company." "Fact that Stratton was President of that Corporation Awakens Expectations of surprising Developments."

ABSURD INSINUATIONS DISPROVED.

To show the utter unfairness of these commenting headlines we all know that investigation discloses the fact that the cheque in question was used in the course of a perfectly legitimate business transaction. It had no more to do with the alleged bribery fund than had the spirit of the member for Manitoulin in making his charges, the spirit of the prosecution and the Mail and Empire newspaper, or, to do with the spirit of truth and righteousness and the spirit of British fair play. (Applause) In the body of the article the same innuendo is contained as in the headlines. For instance:—

"It was found on September 9th, one day before Mr. Gamey signed the letter to the Premier in Mr. Aylesworth's office, and two days before the date on which he says \$3,000 in Ontario Bank bills were divided between himself and Frank Sullivan, a cash payment of \$3,000 was made by cheque. Reference to the Supplementary Cash Book showed that the cheque was one drawn by the Trusts and Guarantee Company, of 14 King street West, Toronto, a financial institution of which Hon. James Robert Stratton is President."

These unfair insinuations are printed in black letter type, a fitting type of the black character of the defamatory comments. (Applause.)

The Toronto World had a similar article, and was similarly dealt with on its own account.

The senior Conservative organ took its cue from its masters, and it can be credited with serving its masters well. It followed in its columns the course of the opposition in its action of prejudicing the case, and pronouncing condemnation in advance.

ALSO AN OLD OFFENDER

In work like this the organ is an adept. It has long practiced the role of trying to destroy and dethrone opponents whom the people honoured with their confidence. I might quote examples of the attacks made by the Mail on the late Sir Oliver Mowat, when he was premier of this province. It is not pleasant, but is instructive reading, to show the spirit in which the organ did the work of its political masters.

Here Mr. Stratton read extracts from the Mail of former dates, as a sample of vituperation, with the suggestion that was easily possible that from the same source the leader of the Opposition drew his apparently unhired supply of robust invective. The extracts quoted consisted of virulent attacks on the late Sir Oliver Mowat when he was in active public life, attributing to him, not only political but personal corrupt actions and motives. In comment on these extracts, Mr. Stratton, continuing, said:

To illustrate that the violence of such attacks is intended to remove political leaders from the path to preferment of an aspiring Opposition, to show the insincerity of such attacks, which are always invariably made upon such men when they are dangerous, when they stand in the way, let me quote an eulogy or two on Sir Oliver after he passed away. Hear the following from the Mail of April 20th, and contrast it with the slang-whanging attacks of 1884. The article describes Sir Oliver as:

"A solid and safe man, free from extreme tendencies and exceedingly cautious in his legislation."

In his lifetime one of the cries against him was his hasty and ill-advised legislation.

Another article describes him in the following manner:

"Sir Oliver Mowat was a great party leader and a great public man, and he was also a good man, with all that those two words implied, and it was due to that, that he occupied at the time of his death the position that he did in the estimation of the people who knew him best."

The late Hon. Mr. Hardy had been, perhaps, the best abused man in Provincial politics. When he had passed away he was eulogized by those who

condemned him most. Unscrupulous charges were made, with no attempt to prove them, only to be practically withdrawn after death came. (Applause.)

HOW CHARGES WERE RECEIVED AND MET.

I have referred to the extraordinary manner with which the extraordinary statement of the member for Manitoulin on March 11th, was received by the members of the Opposition. It is fitting that I should also refer to the way in which such a statement was received upon this side of the House. It was received with intense astonishment by myself, by my colleagues who were mentioned, for they had, like myself, the consciousness and personal knowledge that the crude concoction called, in the first burst of enthusiasm by some of the admirers of the member for Manitoulin, an impeachment, was as false as it was possible for any statement to be. (Applause.) As to myself I fully recognized the serious character of the statement, and the situation it created, though I felt certain—from the certainty of knowledge—that the material assertions of the statement as affecting my honour and conduct, either as a member or a man, could not be sustained by any credible proof or testimony. But, at the same time, such a statement made upon the floor of the Legislature, fully reported, as I knew it would be, and sent broadcast in the press throughout the province, would unless it was promptly contradicted, have its damaging influence, before denial or disproof could reach the same quarters. I knew from the attitude of the Opposition, while the disgraceful and defamatory calumny was being related, that the story would be received with a certain degree of credence, especially amongst the large class easily open to the reception of political prejudices.

TRUTH OF CHARGES NEVER ENTER-TAINED.

For my own part, hardly had the echoes of the slanders of the man from Manitoulin ceased to be heard in these walls, when I communicated my emphatic denial of the correctness of his charges to my leader, the Premier. That was the first step in clearing my character of the foul as-

persion that had been cast upon it. At the moment it was all that I could do, and that was hardly necessary, so far as my colleagues, my fellow members on this side of the House, and those who knew me best in my own riding, were concerned, for they would never entertain a moment's belief of such a charge, without the most direct and convincing proof. (Applause)

And here I may be permitted to bear testimony to the fact that no man, in the face of such an accusation, and under the circumstances, in which the astounding story of the man from Manitoulin placed me, ever received such cordial and loyal evidence of confidence, support and encouragement as was accorded by my chief, my colleagues, and my Liberal friends, and, I am bound to say, some of my Conservative friends, both in and out of this House. (Applause.)

GRATIFYING EVIDENCES OF CONFIDENCE.

My word that I had done nothing in the connection in question, but what was constitutional and legitimate, was instantly accepted without the shadow of doubt or incredulity. I may confidently add that I had done nothing that was not constitutional, that was under the circumstances even injudicious. I am violating no confidence when I say that the late honoured and lamented Lieutenant-Governor, to whom I felt it my duty to tender an explanation, accepted it without hesitation or qualification. (Applause)

Nor am I violating any confidence in saying that my denial of the charges made to the Premier was not unaccompanied by the suggestion, or rather demand, on my part, that an immediate and thorough investigation of the charges, was due to my impeached honour. And his instant compliance and immediate announcement that such an investigation should be made, was as large a cause for gratitude on my part as his assurance of his confidence expressed in the belief that, so far as he was concerned, no investigation was necessary. (Applause.) But I felt how necessary, how clearly inevitable, it was. I stood that day charged—malignantly and maliciously charged—with actions which, if I had committed them, imperilled my honour as a Cabinet

Minister, as a member of this House, and as a citizen.

RECORD OF A LIFE-TIME CLEAN.

In my home in Peterborough, where I have passed practically all my life, and have been nearly a quarter of a century in business relations with its citizens, and also nearly a score of years in public life, I have done nothing to forfeit the respect and confidence of any citizen, of any class, or of any political faith. (Applause.) Under such circumstances I felt that my attacked honour must be vindicated. As a public man and as a newspaper man, I appreciated the sensitive character of public opinion. Knowing that the statement of the member for Manitoulin would be in the hands of the people of the province the next day, I welcomed the opportunity afforded of giving on the evening of the 11th of March, an interview, touching the circumstances, to the *Globe and Mail* and *Empire* newspapers, which appeared the same day in which the statement of the member for Manitoulin appeared. From my own point of view the importance of that interview does not consist in its merely being a substantial denial of the charges made. It consists in the circumstance that the simple recital of the real facts it contains have been literally borne out by the results of the searching and thorough judicial investigation recently closed. (Applause.) On this account I may be pardoned a little more particular reference to that interview. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will read it:—

"Mr. Gamey came to my office in the Parliament Buildings on three or four occasions. On one occasion Mr. Gamey spoke to me in reference to the appointment of a justice of the peace in Manitoulin, and I suggested that if he (Mr. Gamey) had any recommendation to make, he should forward it in writing to the Attorney-General, who has charge of such appointments, but who was at that time out of the city.

"On the occasion of another of Mr. Gamey's visits, he came to see about some road grants which he desired for certain roads in Manitoulin. I told him he had better send his application in writing in the usual way to the Department of Public Works, which has charge of colonization road matters.

"On another occasion Mr. Gamey came to me complaining of the bad en-

forcement of the license law in Manitoulin. He asserted that hotel keepers were not observing the law, and that the Inspector was absent from his official duty a great deal, attending to his private affairs. Mr. Gamey asked for the appointment of an Inspector, but his request was not acted upon, and he also asked to be allowed to name one of the License Commissioners, who were to be appointed for the new license district, resulting from the sub-division of the district into constituencies.

"Mr. Gamey also spoke of his intention of supporting the Government—that he had no use for Mr. Whitney—his mining policy was bad, and he was not in favour of giving any encouragement to the development of New Ontario. He believed the Liberal policy would be best for the improvement of the northern country, and that he felt that the interests of his constituents would be best served by his supporting the Government. I told him that if that was the case, he had better declare his intention. The Government would in that event consider his recommendations, as they would do in the case of their other supporters.

"I never saw Mr. Gamey in any capacity outside of my office in the Parliament Buildings, and only when he came in to see me on the business mentioned.

"No consideration for support, or money was ever mentioned directly or indirectly between us in any shape or form. During his visits Mr. Gamey was ever energetic and severe in denouncing Mr. Whitney.

"The Government will order and insist upon the strictest investigation into the matter, and the public will have an opportunity of judging of the correctness of Mr. Gamey's story."

HIS STATEMENT VERIFIED.

It may be noted that this interview and the denial it contained, covered generally all the charges in any way directly affecting me personally, and I may be permitted to add that the value of such a simple story as the interview contains, consists in the fact that it was given on the spur of the moment and without premeditation. I had neither time, nor—it can be easily seen—was I mentally fitted under the strain of the circumstances to devise or invent a cunning and complicated rejoinder to the cunning, laboured and carefully concocted statement prepared by the member for Manitoulin, "acting under legal advice,"—to invent a story that would stand an investigation of twenty seven days—I simply stated the truth according to the facts as they existed. And it is a great satis-

faction to me that the simple statements made in the interview have not only been verified but corroborated by the investigation and the finding of the distinguished Commissioners who conducted it. (Applause) My plain unvarnished tale has stood the test. The position I took in that interview has been sustained; my honour basely assailed, has been vindicated, while the elaborate figment of the imagination of the member for Manitoulin, prepared under "legal advice," had been exploded and doubly discredited. (Applause.)

GOVERNMENT ASKED FOR FULLEST INVESTIGATION.

Another result of my own and the Government's knowledge of the falsity of the "Gamey charges," was the decision upon an immediate investigation, as thorough as it could be made. (Applause.)

Grave charges had been made on the floor of the House—charges of the most heinous gravity—the only alternative was refutation or ruin, and the way to refutation was opened by an investigation. In this connection it might not be amiss to review the influences which moved the Government in providing an investigation. In the course of his remarks on introducing a motion—the day after the charges were made—asking the Lieutenant-Governor to issue a Commission of Inquiry, the Premier used these words:

"I want to say to the country that unless our character will stand clear of reproach, above suspicion, vindicated of all such insinuations and charges as have been brought against us by the Honourable Member for Manitoulin, then we do not want any longer to govern this country. We will govern this country as honourable men, with characters unimpeached, or we shall not govern it at all. We ask this House to give us every facility, and I ask my honourable friend opposite to give us every facility for the vindication of our character and reputation as members of the Government."

OBSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION TACTICS.

The House asked the Lieutenant-Governor to issue a Commission and the answer was the Commission. The Premier asked the leader of the Opposition to give the Government "every facility for the vindication of their character and reputation as

Members of the Government," and the answer was,—obstruction at every stage. (Applause.) This brings me to a brief consideration of the tactics pursued by the Opposition during the three weary weeks the Government and its supporters struggled against the dead weight of Opposition opposition to bringing about efficient investigation—to put to the proof the statements of the Member for Manitoulin which the Opposition and their leader adopted and endorsed with so much enthusiasm. All through the different stages of the legislative process which led up to the actual constitution of the Commission, they showed a disinclination to a commission that would ensure thorough investigation, and when wearied of kicking against the Commission, resort was had to abuse of the Judges, imputations of possible unfairness and dishonesty. It was another application of the spirit of the saying—"No case; abuse the defendant." A Royal Commission of Supreme Court Judges was proposed. That met with opposition and various objections were urged. These were met and still other objections were raised,—there was an evident determination to balk inquiry. The object seemed to be to prolong the debate and to prejudicially influence public opinion by heated and partisan denunciation and assertion and insinuation of the guilt of those charged under the statement of the member for Manitoulin. The moment the Commission was proposed, the Honourable leader of the Opposition set the pace for obstructive tactics and imputations upon the rectitude of the judiciary, two of whose members were to constitute the personnel of the Commission.

MR. WHITNEY'S "LOADED DICE".

Speaking on March 13th, as reported by the Mail and Empire, the Opposition leader says:—

"So it seems, Sir, that the decision is that the accused are to choose their own tribunal. They have been accused before this House and before the country of matters so grave that they may not be lightly or hastily disposed of, yet they come before the people and say: 'We, who are accused of high crimes and misdemeanors, will answer to no tribunal save one appointed by ourselves.' It is a fitting climax to the conduct of the Government of this country for the

past few years. The honourable gentlemen opposite know they have no safety except the dice be loaded — except they name their own tribunal."

This is a fair sample of the habitual strong language of the honourable leader of the Opposition. Was that respectful language to apply to our Judges? The Appeal Court Judges were the means, the instrument, for investigating the charges. According to the honourable gentleman's figure of speech, they were the dice and to say that the dice were loaded is only another way of saying that the Judges would be biassed, one-sided, unjust and false to their oath of office. The leader of the Opposition has said that the Judges had no right to complain of criticism. I do not think that there is any man in the Province, judge or jury, politician or layman, who would complain of honest criticism. The leader of the Opposition referred to the case of the late Hon. George Brown criticising judges, but he forgot to add that every possible effort had been made to put him in jail for this offence, and it was only by a disagreement of the judges that Mr. Brown was not committed for contempt. So that the leader of the Opposition was rather unhappy in his reference to that incident. I say the judges do not complain of honest criticism. I have no authority for saying so, but I believe that as honourable, honest men they do not fear honest criticism when it is directed against them. The leader of the Opposition said at the same time that it was a monstrous proceeding for the Government to frame the indictment. My honourable friend is again mistaken. (Hear, hear.) We did not frame the indictment. The Government did not frame the indictment. The accusations from end to end of the member for Manitoulin were presented to the Court. It was open to them to bring evidence as to the proof of any word in that indictment, and the slightest suspicion of accusation had to be met by the defence, and he will remember that the Court stated that the prosecution had a right to have everything investigated that was mentioned in that indictment. (Hear, hear.) Sir, if the indictment was a plain, honest statement of fact we

would not have had any objection to it.

INDICTMENT PERMITTED FULL INQUIRY.

If we had had the preparation of an indictment we would have prepared, no doubt a definite statement of fact that would have had to be met. But that was not the position of the accused. Under the statement the prosecution could investigate anything that might arise. If so and so was said, that was included; if there were insinuations or innuendoes in the statement, we had to meet them in that inquiry. We met them. The scope of the Commission was wide enough to suit the hon. gentlemen, and I think a little too wide, as I will be able to show as I proceed in my remarks. I do not desire to attribute to the leader of the Opposition, any language or word that I do not think his statement would warrant, but I think that his statement this afternoon with regard to the judges was another way of saying that they were false to their oath of office; and that is a statement that is somewhat too strong to be made by the leader of Opposition, or by any other member in this House.

Mr. Whitney—I am willing that you should construe it that way, only don't say that I said it.

Hon. Mr. Stratton—My hon. friend was pretty strong in his attitude to the judges to-day.

Mr. Whitney—I meant to be.

Hon. Mr. Stratton—And I think it is no wonder that a debate begun in such a spirit became more disgraceful with its aspersions and attacks upon the judiciary, as the debate proceeded from day to day. I said a moment ago that there could be no cause for complaint from the prosecution in regard to the scope of the Commission. The scope was wide enough to investigate what are known as the "Gamey charges," and any others preferred in writing by any member of the House. The statement was made that the witnesses would be shielded and would refuse to answer on the ground that they were not required to incriminate themselves. This objection was removed by special legislation, and yet the Opposition were not satisfied. There seemed to be a deter-

mination on the part of the Opposition to object to everything that was done, no matter how reasonable and fair. Was it because they feared that the Gamey charges would fail of proof, and that a definite decision, adverse to their hopes, would be arrived at. They naturally preferred the everlasting contention and squabbling and the chance to make unlimited political capital, which investigation, or rather recrimination, before a Parliamentary Committee would afford. (Applause.)

The Opposition feared a definite decision so greatly that an amendment was proposed forbidding the judges to make a decision on the evidence—to make a finding. Why all this obstruction and opposition to full investigation and a final settlement of the question, unless the desire that the matter be left open to permit its use as a means of making party capital.

GREAT LATITUDE ALLOWED.

There can, in the light of the events of the month just past be no doubt that the scope of the commission was exceedingly wide — wide enough to constitute it virtually a roving commission. Even the Chancellor is authority for this, for on one occasion in permitting evidence that counsel suggested was impracticable, he admitted it upon the ground that the prosecution was "fishing" for information. Here we have the Commission specifically allowing itself to be used as a "fishing" commission, practically a roving, unrestricted, unlimited Commission. I can produce evidence as to the wide and satisfactory scope of the Commission which should satisfy hon. gentlemen opposite, that is if they are faithful to their first love for the distinguished authority which I herewith beg to submit. In making his argument before the Commissioners on Thursday, May 21st, Mr. S. H. Blake, K. C., counsel for the Conservative Opposition, referring to the scope of the act creating the Commission, used these words:—

MR. BLAKE ADMITS WIDE SCOPE.

"It will be necessary for a moment to consider the scope of the Act, as in place of the House vindicating itself it has thought proper to leave this in the hands of two commissioners, and I simply state that there is no doubt of the wide scope of the Act and of the

Commission, and that all the evidence that was given was clearly within the competency of the Commission. I do not go, my Lords, into the details, because upon that your Lordships have ruled, and I feel satisfied that it has been of great satisfaction to those that I represent here, the people of this Province that so wide a scope has been given and that all the evidence virtually which has been tendered has been received by your Lordships; but I may say, that if one looks at the formal charges that are on file, which do not go beyond the statements found in the papers A, B, and C, and that of the 27th March, the last clause of the Evidence Act, and the Commission, especially the last clause, all the evidence given is clearly covered by these various documents which govern in this matter; and so I submit, my Lords, that without question all the matters that have been gone into have been matters that are covered in these three ways, and in respect of which the evidence adduced should have been, as it has been, received."

It will be remembered that the Opposition all along contended that the Government was amenable to the people, that we should have as a last resort, the people to appeal to. Well the people were represented in this case by the senior counsel, Mr. Blake, and he said, with regard to that, the language that I have just quoted. Now, Sir John Boyd, in his remarks at the close of the investigation, said this:

"My brother and myself have had little opportunity to confer on this controversy during the sittings, and some days will be needed for such a full, fair and unhampered inquiry as will satisfy every thoughtful and honest man that a fair inquest has been kept in view as the object to be attained. We may not go far into the inviting fields of casuistry and ethics, which are open to us, but we do hope to dispose of the matter *secundum allegata et probata*.

"The final words used by a great judge at the close of a great inquiry of kindred character, the Parnell Commission, can be fittingly adopted by us:—'Conscious that throughout this great inquest we have sought only the truth, we trust we shall be guided to find it, and set it plainly in the sight of all men.' More apt, more terse, more striking words could not be used to express this thought and aspiration, which have inspired the hope to make complete discharge of our duty under the Commission."

Mr. Blake then stated in concluding his argument before this re-

stricted, biased and venal Commission:

"I leave this matter in the hands of the Commissioners—men well-known and honoured in our community for their high position, for their honour, their ability. I may say they are men with whom I have companied all my life, and know whereof I speak." (Hear, hear and applause.)

THE COMMISSION A FAIR ONE.

These are the words of the judges and the "representative of the people" before the Commission. We know and believe, the people know and believe, this House knows and believes, that the Commission was a fair one. They know that the gate of evidence was opened wide. It was a common remark in the press, a common remark in the court room, it was common talk everywhere, that the Commission afforded every facility for a full and free investigation of the facts; and, sir, the Commission showed every anxiety and every eagerness to elicit the truth, and they gave, I believe, the widest interpretation of the rules of evidence, and I believe that their decisions were fair, although they did not hold any objection taken by the counsel for the defence to be good, and they over-ruled all objections made by my counsel at the trial and they gave the benefit of the doubt to the prosecutor in this case. And, sir, the World newspaper of April 20th, 1903, at the conclusion of the evidence, said: "Sir John Boyd and Chief Justice Falconbridge have undoubtedly done their utmost to be fair." (Applause.)

Now let me add that every possible means was taken to provide all the information possible, so that the investigation would be as far-reaching as possible, impartial, minute and skilful; and I think, Mr. Speaker, that every reasonable man, that every member of this House who took occasion to visit the court, would have no reason to complain. But, sir, the Government accomplished its purpose of fair, impartial and thorough investigation, in the face of the persistent obstruction of the Opposition. Another object I have in dealing at length with this matter is to show the insincerity of hon. gentlemen opposite in professing that their desire was to purify politics. Instead of assisting the Government

to get at the truth, it took three mortal weeks for discussion of this matter in the House. They professed to be shocked at the revelations that were made and they made very long speeches. Some times one thought, sitting here as I sat, that some hon. gentlemen were talking against time when they pretended to be defending the outraged honour of the province, and they were making, as I thought, campaign harangues that might be used for political purposes when occasion offered in the country. But I did not complain. I waited the opportunity of going before the Commission.

INSINCERE COMPLAINTS.

And while they complained of the limited scope of the Commission, and that the commission would be a farce, they did not take the full responsibility and advantage of the provisions of that Commission, for it will be remembered that the member for North Essex stated that he had been offered the Speakership of this province, (hear, hear) and that, as Speaker, he was to be allowed into the select four hundred of Toronto's society. (Laughter and Ministerial applause.) It was stated by the member for East Toronto — and subsequently withdrawn — that he had been offered the Speakership as well. (hear, hear.) The Commission permitted of these charges being laid. Why were they not laid? The scope was unrestricted; but they did not take advantage of the full scope of the Commission. Scores of times charges were hurled across the floor of the House that the Ministers were all involved; and on March 27th the charge was amended by the member for Manitoulin; a rider to his statement was added that widened the scope and included the members of the Government in the role of conspirators. And, sir, the scope was wide enough to permit of this evidence being submitted to the court. Every Minister was summoned; not one was called. (Hear, hear, and Ministerial applause.) The leader of the Opposition taunted the Premier this afternoon: "Why," he asked, "didn't he go into the box, and explain the position in regard to the letter of the 10th September?" I think it comes with bad grace for the leader of the Opposition to taunt the Pre-

mier in that way. The Premier was here; he did not run away; he was ready to go into the witness box, as all the members of the Government were, (hear, hear,) and they sat day after day ready to be called, yet the counsel for the prosecution did not feel justified in calling any member of the Government, for reasons, perhaps, which they might best explain themselves.

THE CHANCELLOR'S OPINION.

Well, sir, what did we find? On the first day the Chancellor asserted, "We have the text of the Gamey charges before us, and the Commission is wide enough to investigate everything in these," and he subsequently added to Mr. Johnston, "You are also asked to meet the last charge of Mr. Gamey on the floor of the House—conspiracy, in which everybody (all the Ministers) are implicated. You have to take that into account." Yet not a particle of evidence was presented to sustain the charge of conspiracy. (Hear, hear.) And the prosecution dare not put a single Minister in the witness box. (Applause.) Was it because the charges were trumped up? Was it because it served as campaign literature to Opposition speakers? I cannot answer these questions; the Opposition can best answer them themselves. But the purpose has been served, and the members of the Government were not called. I feel myself that the Opposition, if they had believed the charges of conspiracy of the member for Manitoulin, should have placed each of the members of the Government in the witness box; there was no object in subpoenaing them unless they had reason to believe that they were conspirators; and if they were conspirators they had a right to obtain from them the evidence that they had to give; so that, when they did not place them in the witness box, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that they did not themselves believe the charges that were laid and formulated by the new star of the Conservative party from Manitoulin. (Applause.) Sir, "the scope was restricted," as was charged, and yet Mr. Blake, counsel for the prosecution,

turned from his visit across the line. The Commissioners themselves were forced to elicit certain evidence that Mr. Blake did not take the responsibility of calling. (Hear, hear.) Then, Sir, why was Mr. McGregor not called? (Hear, hear.) It is said that he came down to assist Mr. Gamey in his undertaking; that he saw him enter my office with Mr. Sullivan. Why was Mr. McGregor not put in the box to discredit Mr. Sullivan and my statement with regard to that occurrence? (Hear, hear.) These are questions that can best be answered by the member from Manitoulin. Then, Sir, Mr. Jones was mentioned in the charge that was made in the House. Why was Mr. Jones not called by the prosecution? (Hear, hear.) Mr. Jones was called by the Commissioners. The counsel for the defence took the responsibility of examination, with the right of cross-examination. The commission was wide enough to take in all Manitoulin; yet the member from Manitoulin did not even call his pal, who, he says, came down with him on the 28th January, and saw him enter my office with Mr. Sullivan on the 29th. But, Sir, what is the use of further dwelling upon the statement? It is obvious to everybody that the object of the statement of the member for Manitoulin was simply party advantage. Now, Sir, all that the Government proposed in connection with this matter was opposed by the Opposition regardless of what interests might suffer. If a committee of this House had been proposed, I am satisfied that hon. gentlemen would have complained. (Hear, hear.) When the Royal Commission was appointed, they complained also. I do not think they would have been satisfied, no matter which course we took. They did not show any great desire to get to the Commission or to get to the Committee of the House at once.

FULL INVESTIGATION DESIRED.

The Government had nothing to fear. We courted and we welcomed the investigation, and we wanted that investigation to be before such a court or such a tribunal that, whatever the result might be, it might be acceptable to the great majority of the people of this province. I do not know, and I cannot account for the fact that I was selected by the

DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE

of all the privileges. He refused to call Mr. Gamey after he had re-

member for Manitoulin for the unenviable prominence that he has given to me in this particular instance. I had no knowledge of any plot—though there doubtless was such a plot—that was working outside of his jurisdiction before he made his statement in the House on March 11th. But I do not complain of the prominence that the hon. gentleman has given me; I only complain of the vindictive pursuit of myself, either by himself, or his counsel, in the prosecution of the case. Perhaps the people of this province will be surprised to know that I was dogged by sleuth hounds of the member for Manitoulin or his counsel, for the three long weeks that this house sat, and for the month the matter was under investigation. I could not leave the door of the Parliament Buildings but one or two men were shadowing me in whatever direction I chose to go, some on wheels, some on the street car; and I was pursued with a vindictiveness which I think the people of this province will resent when the opportunity is afforded them of pronouncing on the facts. Drivers of cabs were interviewed and employed to such an extent that I could not leave to go to any place in the city without drivers of cabs being interviewed by some person to know where I had gone and what I was doing, with a view to elicit in some way information that could be used to my disadvantage. No man in public or private life was ever so maliciously and malignantly persecuted and condemned in advance and without one iota of proof, beyond the bare statement of a notoriety seeking and self-seeking, political adventurer, who was exploiting politics for his own benefit. (Loud Government applause.)

ANIMUS OF THE PRESS.

The party press, Mr. Speaker, was bitter enough, Heaven knows, but the mis-called independent press distanced the party press in their persecution in this regard; and the independent press in this city stand convicted before the face of all honourable men in this province as being the most unfair and partizan, in giving prejudgment of a case where there had been no hearing and where there had been no trial. I could not have been more viciously assailed if I had a record of perhaps the worst

criminal in the province of Ontario; and, sir, if the independent press of the Province, is to be of any use to the people of this province, it should take a higher and loftier standing; it should be more judicial and dependable than the party press, because the party press sometimes have to take a stand that perhaps they do not always relish or are not always pleased with, but there is no reason why the independent press of this city, why men who feel their great superiority over other men, with high ideals of public life and public probity and public morals should lend themselves to prejudging a case where a man is charged with one of the most serious offences that it is possible for a man to be charged with. Sir, even that lofty jurist, Mr. Blake, did not hesitate at all to stoop from the pedestal and accept the fruits and works of those hirelings that followed me around the city.

MR. BLAKE'S KINDNESS RECOGNIZED.

I should be wanting in my sense of recognition if I did not acknowledge the brotherly kindness of the senior Counsel, and I am not going to take advantage of this opportunity of saying what I have every reason to say of the senior Counsel for the prosecution, but on some other occasion I may take advantage of the opportunity of saying what I have warrant for saying. His energy and zeal never flagged. I can bear testimony to the great energy he displayed in the enthusiasm which he threw into the endeavour to destroy a Liberal Government in this Province. (Hear, hear.) And Sir, from motives that were no loftier or no higher, than those of the member for Manitoulin. (Loud applause.) Sir, his zeal never flagged till the idol from Manitoulin destroyed the important evidence and absconded from the city. (Government applause and laughter)—and then the senior Counsel dropped the senior plotter. (Cheers.) I was not surprised nor disappointed at the result, that Mr. Blake dropped the member for Manitoulin after his Buffalo outing. (Applause.) And, sir, Mr. Blake seemed to forget himself. In his cross examination of myself he did not seem to have a desire to get at the facts so much as a

desire to vent his spleen; but sir, he capped the climax when he denounced his own chief witness as "an unblushing, wilful liar, a man utterly reckless of the truth." (Loud Government applause.) One can hardly understand the counsel dealing with his own witness, Mr. Sullivan, in that way. (Opposition laughter.) Hon. gentlemen smile.

Mr. Whitney — Which did the hon. gentleman mean, because he said Sullivan.

Hon. Mr. Stratton—Yes, I said Mr. Sullivan. (Opposition Laughter.) I say that he denounced his own chief witness as an unblushing, wilful liar, a man utterly reckless of the truth.

MR. BLAKE'S POSITION.

I can hardly understand the senior counsel dealing with his own witness in that way unless it was a mental lapse or a slip of the tongue. It may be on other grounds. I don't know; but it is quite to be believed that Mr. Blake did not relish the position he was in at that particular time; and sir, he finds that the position that he occupies at the present time is not even relished by the party press of the party he is now identified with. The Hamilton Spectator speaks out in no uncertain way of him on May 16th, and says:—

"There is a strong feeling among Conservatives that the prosecution has been spoiled by its lawyers as well as by Gamey's 'slip.' A gentleman who has had a chance to know told your correspondent that they have been at sixes and sevens ever since they were selected to conduct the prosecution. With division amongst his counsel it is not to be wondered at that Gamey was sometimes at sea."

Then the Cornwall Freeholder says:—

"Mr. Blake might have known it. There has been a good deal of hard feelings among the hard-working Tory lawyers, that all the pickings should be handed over to Mr. Blake on a profession of faith, supplemented by work only to the extent of writing 'My dear Foy,' and now that feeling has broken out. Letters are being written from Conservative sources in Toronto to the Opposition papers harshly criticising the manner in which the prosecution in the Gamey case has been conducted by Mr. Blake. This is rather cruel to the new convert, but he will discover, in fact he has already done so, that kicks

rather than embraces come to those who fail to succeed. The difference between a hero and a chump is often measured by the distance between success and failure."

So that Mr. Blake will observe that the friends he is identified with at the present time have not the affection for him that he may have thought they had.

STEPS TOWARDS VINDICATION.

I referred a moment ago to the steps I took in stating to the Premier that the statement made by Mr. Gamey was not in accordance with the fact. With the next step I took I followed precedent and sent in my resignation. I felt it was due to the leader of the Government to be relieved of the embarrassment under the serious and unfounded charges that were then made. I left him free to do as he saw fit in regard to the matter, confident that he would do what he regarded to be in the best interests of the Government and the country, without any regard to myself. I did not interfere in the investigation. I did not attend the Council meeting when the Commissioners were being selected. I did not advise who should be selected. I did not even have a voice in saying who the Counsel would be. (Hear, hear.) I was perfectly satisfied to abide by any judges that the Government saw fit to appoint; and let me say that it comes with bad grace from the party press of this Province to complain that two of the highest judges in the land, two of the best men perhaps and the greatest men that we have ever had upon the bench in Canada, should be attacked for holding an investigation into charges of such a serious nature as we are now considering. It was no fault of mine that my resignation was declined. It was at no suggestion of mine but it was no surprise to me when I received a letter from the Premier stating that he had the utmost confidence in me, and that he could not accept my resignation until there was some credible proof to substantiate the statements made by Mr. Gamey. I was quite satisfied with the position that was taken at that time and I am quite satisfied now.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS MR. GAMEY.

Before entering into a considera-

tion of the evidence adduced at the investigation I might say that when Mr. Gamey made his visit to my office on official business, I treated him courteously, I treated him just in the same way as I treat every one that comes to my department, just in the same courteous way that I treat those who support me on conviction. I did not feel in case Mr. Gamey wished to change his allegiance that it necessarily involved corruption. I do not think that it does, unless he was changing his allegiance from impure and improper motives, and being approached by me or some one on my behalf. He could have justified his course by distinguished precedents, had he so desired. The history of the country is full of precedents. We have had prominent politicians changing their party allegiance from time to time and there was no corrupt charge laid at their doors because they felt from time to time differently with regard to public questions or with regard to matters that affected their political relations. There are many instances that can be mentioned. There is the Hon. R. W. Scott; he was a Conservative, the Conservative speaker, under Sandfield Macdonald, and he entered Mr. Blake's Cabinet. The Hon. E. B. Wood was Treasurer, under the Sandfield Macdonald Government and he went over to Mr. Blake, and it was charged but not proved that he was influenced by corrupt motive—on a charge made but never proved. Then we have Sir W. P. Howland. He was once a Liberal, he became Post Master General under Sir A. McNab. Then we have the Hon. J. B. Aikens, a Conservative, and Sir Richard Cartwright, they became Liberals at the time of the Pacific scandal. Then we have Mr. Tarte, who left the Conservative party as well and we have Sir Leonard Tilley, a Liberal, who afterwards became Finance Minister under Sir John Macdonald's Government. We have Mr. Beatty, who was elected in 1894 as a Conservative and after the first vote in the Legislature with the party he was elected by, he afterwards supported the Government. He then ran as an Independent, or as a Conservative, and he supported the Government—he supported the Liberals.

ALMOST AS GOOD AS GAMEY.

Here we have several statesmen on both sides of politics, almost as great and as good as the member for Manitoulin, (applause,) who changed their political allegiance without any charges, except in one instance, of corruption and without any corrupt acts influencing them in that regard and the one charge made, was that in relation to the Hon. Mr. Wood, which was found as baseless as the charge is in the present case.

Though the Gamey charges may have been startling they were certainly not unique. The Liberals in Ontario as I have said have been up against this kind of accusation for a great many years. It will be remembered the Hon. Mr. Pardee was threatened by Mr. Meredith in 1883 with indictment before the House, and in 1885 he was charged with personal corruption and was threatened to be brought before the bar of the House in connection with an oil-well swindle. The charge of corruption was as strong as it was possible to be made, but it was not proven, no attempt was made to prove it, and the same has been the case in regard to various questions. It was charged in 1886 that a corrupt bargain was made with Archbishop Lynch. Here is what was said in this connection of Sir Oliver Mowat:—"No man could have believed when he came down from the bench in 1872 that he, a valiant champion of Protestant liberties, should one day become a marionette (a puppet) in the hands of the Catholic hierarchy."

ANOTHER BARGAIN CHARGED.

A similar bargain in 1894 was charged with His Grace the late Archbishop Cleary and it was thus described:—

"In no other country of the world would such a project be tolerated. Ontario has fallen behind little by little and she can retrieve her position if she but strike a decisive blow against the church of Rome."

In the same year, 1894, the Government was charged with making a corrupt bargain with Principal Grant and certain alleged improper gifts were said to have been given to the late principal of Queen's—he had sold himself to the late venerated Lieutenant Governor, Sir Oliver Mowat, then Premier of Ontario. It was charged:—

"When the relations between them are understood, the cry 'Ontario cannot afford to dismiss Sir Oliver' will simply mean 'Principal Grant of Kingston cannot afford to dismiss Sir Oliver.'"

And we see that the personal honour of Sir Oliver was attacked without any warrant. On June the 16th, 1884, the party organ says:—

"Sir Oliver Mowat in his keen regard for family aggrandisement has been somewhat unscrupulous and cynical, a curious and uninteresting semblance of piety that in most men would be nauseating, but which in Sir Oliver is only an instance of his singularly composite character."

The great constitutional contentions of the past in this province have been practically conspiracies on the part of the Conservatives and those that were attached to them, conspiracies which caused much trouble and expense to the Province of Ontario. The Boundary Award and the Rivers and Streams Bill, the License Question, and other questions, have been conspiracies practically growing from corrupt acts charged by the Opposition against the Government. But, Sir, in all these cases the investigation of these baseless charges were just as far from proof as they have been in this case. (Applause.)

CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE.

I have concluded my opening remarks respecting the general features of the subject now before the House, and I desire to deal with the evidence as to the Gamey charges, which to the Conservative mind, are the greatest of all charges that have been made in the Province of Ontario. Sir if we come to a consideration of proof, I want to emphasize the fact that no evidence was rejected on account of the objection from Counsel for the defence. I desire to emphasize that. (Hear, hear.) And to point out that the old law of evidence that ought to be good enough for anybody was not good for Mr. Gamey to prove his charges under. For four hundred years, no man, under the law of evidence, in England and in this province, has been compellable to give evidence to connect or involve himself in a crime. To give every opportunity to Mr. Gamey, this safeguard was thrown aside. The law was changed for this special case

and for this case only—it will not apply to any other—the law was changed so as to compel every witness in the Gamey investigation to tell all he might know about the case, no matter how disastrous it might be to him. I consented to an enlargement of the rules of evidence and the rules of evidence were enlarged. I do not desire and I am not going to, at the present moment, find fault with the action of the House with regard to this matter, but I wish to indicate that extraordinary facilities were given to permit Mr. Gamey to prove anything that might be true in his charges. No particular credit need be taken on this head, for neither myself nor the Government had any fear of the results of such a course. We were willing that every latitude should be given, for we felt sure that the charges, being unfounded, could not be proved, no matter what latitude should be given. (Applause.)

First, Sir, I desire to point out what was Mr. Gamey's condition of mind when he loomed up upon the horizon of notoriety. He had been Independent in politics in the early history of Manitoulin and it is said he voted for Mr. Lyon. Dr. Arthur said that. After the election in 1898, Jones' evidence attributes to Mr. Gamey this:—"If I run I will run as an Independent," and it is said that Mr. Gamey even told strangers that he would support the Government. These were Mr. Bowen and Mr. Martin, who slept in the same room, one, I believe, in the same bed with him, between the 1st and 10th of September at the Walker House, Toronto, during the Exhibition week. If he was not going to support the Government why did he so tell Martin? Why tell Mr. Conmee that he was going to support the Government? Why did he "confidentially" consult Dr. Struthers and Dr. Arthur, who were pronounced Liberals, as to the course he was going to pursue? Then we have his action at his own convention, and it was stated by Dr. Fell and Mr. Kinney that at that time he gave no pledge as to the course he would pursue.

GAMEY'S FREE HAND.

He was left free to act as an Independent, and in his campaign speeches, it was said by many credible witnesses

es, that Mr. Gamey had declared that "he was independent of party," that "he would support any party in power," that "he would give the Government support to get grants," and "if the Ross Government was sustained that he would support the Government." These statements were not contradicted by Mr. Gamey. He had an opportunity of going into the box, and contradicting them if they were untrue. It is true that other contradictory statements were sworn to, but it is clear by all the statements that if the Government was sustained, Mr. Gamey was going to take a course other than the usual one. He was "not going to have his hands tied." "Manitoulin was going to be really his politics." It is true that he abused the Government, and that he abused the Government policy; I have no doubt the member from Manitoulin would rather have supported Mr. Whitney in power than Mr. Ross in power, but I am just as confident that he would have preferred supporting Mr. Ross in power to Mr. Whitney in opposition. (Applause.) The member from Manitoulin may deny these statements, but all his friends and neighbours say they are true. There were Socialists, there were Conservatives, and there were Liberals brought down, and they gave their evidence in court in regard to this matter. They were strangers to me. I never saw them before; I may never see them again. They were friends of Mr. Gamey's; they made these statements and their mutual conclusion was that Mr. Gamey sought election upon the very terms that I have just mentioned. It was either his personal advantage, or the advantage of the constituency, as distinguished from the province of Ontario, that he was seeking. This is the position attributed to Mr. Gamey at a Conservative meeting in his own constituency, by one of his supporters, Thomas Robinson, whose remarks were reported to the press in Mr. Gamey's own handwriting, and the report was put in evidence by the telegraph company, through whom the message was sent to the press. The paragraph of the report referring to to this matter, in Mr. Gamey's own handwriting, is as follows:—

"T. Robinson, a delegate from the country, took the ground that R. R.

Gamey had promised to take an independent stand during the campaign last spring, if the Government were sustained, and that he had received a great many Liberal votes on that account. Mr. E. Batty did not understand any such stand to have been taken during the campaign.

Mr. Gamey attended and explained his position in a clear and careful manner, alleging that his duty was to his constituency first and that he had only done what he considered in the best interests of his constituency, and particularly asked them to suspend judgment for the present. He also expressed an opinion that this executive had no power to ask him to resign, and that he would be pleased to have a convention called and abide by their decision, as he knew from letters and interviews that the great majority of the people were well satisfied with his recent actions."

This was on February 16th, 1903.

Then why did he say to Dr. Arthur that he was going up to his constituency to get the farmers to sign a paper? Mr. Gamey did not deny that after hearing the statement. He was in the box. He did not offer to refute the statement that he was going to get the electors of his constituency to approve of the course he alleged he was going to pursue.

SMALL ADVANTAGE OF GAMEY'S SUPPORT.

It was not much advantage to the Government, Mr. Speaker, to secure the support of Mr. Gamey at that time. We had a majority of one.

Mr. Whitney—Hear, hear.

Mr. Stratton—And I will give my hon. friend some more solace of that description. We had an uncertain constituency vacant; there were about forty protests, and there was absolute uncertainty, either with or without Mr. Gamey, as to whether the Government would be able to continue. If the Government could not hold on without Mr. Gamey, it could not hold on with him. (Applause.) The only safety that we had, Mr. Speaker, was in the bye-elections, and it is most unreasonable to think, and the people of this province do not think, that any one would take so great risks for so inadequate a value as Mr. Gamey's support would have been to the Government at that time. His support was not sufficient to at all make the position of the Gov-

ernment a certainty. Mr. Gamey's allegations are that on Sept. 9th, 10th or 11th he came to my office, an utter stranger to me; and that I promised to have his protest withdrawn, (I am not quoting his exact words, I do not desire to be understood as doing that; I am giving the evidence as I remember it); that I promised him the patronage of the riding, and that I gave him \$3,000, with \$2,000 to be given him after the session of the Legislature.

CONFUSION AS TO DATES.

And he says that a letter was produced on the 9th—he says that in his statement. When he comes to the Court he does not say it was on the 9th; in fact he does not know whether it was on the 9th, 10th or 11th of the month; but when cross-examined he finally said it was on the 11th that he received the package of \$3,000. He says that the letter was produced on the day he first visited me, and that he was there only on two days, and they were consecutive, and that he got the money on the second day. He says that I took the money from my pocket; I gave it to Mr. Myers, Mr. Myers gave it to Mr. Chase, and that Mr. Chase took it to the smoking room. Is there anyone on earth believes that yarn? (A voice, No.) I know that Mr. Gamey himself does not believe it. (Applause.) Mr. Chase has sworn that it is not true. Mr. Myers has sworn that it is not true; and I have sworn that it is not true. I think that is all that is necessary to substantiate the proof of the truth of my assertion. Now, what proof have we of Mr. Gamey's statement? THERE IS NO MAN SWPARS THAT MR. GAMEY WAS BRIBED. THERE IS NO MAN SWEARS — NOT EVEN MR. GAMEY HIMSELF SWEARS — THAT HE WAS BRIBED. Mr. Gamey swears that he was not bribed but that he was working in a plot, and consequently that he obtained this money as a necessary element in the scheme that he was concocting—a plot—with the view to entrap the Minister, and to entrap the Government. Mr. Gamey alone swears to a payment of money. All the others swear to no payment. Then if there was a payment, the hon. members opposite do not say that it was bribery—they say that it was a plot and that

Mr. Gamey obtained this money as an element in the plot.

NO EVIDENCE OF BRIBERY.

I say that there is no evidence whatever that he was bribed; not a witness swore that he was bribed. This saviour of the country, this patriot from Manitoulin, is the only man who stands up and says that there was any money passed to him by Sullivan from the Government, and he knows in his innermost heart, that the statement is as false as a statement can be. The only circumstance, which by the extreme latitude of reasoning, could be tortured into a semblance of evidence, that he was paid money, is the deposit of \$1500 that he is said to have made in the Traders' Bank on the 11th of September. This is not any proof, Mr. Speaker. There is not a lawyer in the House who would or could say that that is any proof of Mr. Gamey's statement. My books were examined, my private accounts—all the accounts that I possessed from some time in August (the first of August, if I remember correctly,) until the 11th of March — were examined. My bank books were produced and searched, every cheque gone over, and there was no \$3,000 withdrawn from my account. I think that is quite as good proof that I did not buy him as the statement that he deposited \$1,500 is proof that I did buy him. There is no question of doubt about that. It is an equally proof of non-payment as Mr. Gamey's statement is of payment. Why did Mr. Gamey not produce his bank books, his bank accounts at Sudbury and Gore Bay, and the Crossin Piano Company accounts? The piano bank account was produced, the Sudbury bank account from March 3rd of the present year only, was produced. The statement made was that the fee would prevent him getting his account from Gore Bay and the Sudbury Bank account was not produced. The Gore Bay bank account has never been produced up to this day.

Mr. Gamey — You are absolutely wrong; the account was filed in the Court. The Sudbury account was filed from last fall, in September, in the Court.

Mr. Stratton—I do not know whether it was or not, I will have to substantiate it to be certain. My

recollection was there was NO BANK BOOKS SUBMITTED by Mr. Gamey, except the one from Gore Bay, and that book did not give the statement of account covering the time the defence desired to inquire about. (See evidence, page 173.)

Now, Mr. Gamey is contradicted by Mr. Myers, by Mr. Chase, by Mr. Costello, by Mr. Buckingham, by Miss Jeffrey, by Mr. Sullivan, by Mr. Boland, and by myself. But, leaving this out, look at the contradictions, the alterations and the improbabilities of Mr. Gamey's statement and his suspicious conduct.

MR. GAMEY CHANGED HIS DATE.

In his statement in the House Mr. Gamey said:

"About Sept. 9th I was taken to Stratton's office and discussed the arrangements with him and . . . was shown the letter I would have to sign agreeing to support the government. We then made an appointment with the Hon. J. R. Stratton for the next afternoon. We went up to his office on Wednesday, Sept. 10th, about 12.30. Stratton was ready. . . . I saw Stratton take out of his pocket an envelope. . . . We went down to the smoking room. . . . Parcel brought to us."

In his evidence before the Commission, he changed that date. He swore first that he could not say whether it was on the 9th and 10th he was at my office, or the 10th and 11th. He tried to leave himself open, to claim he was bribed on some one of these days, but which day he could not say, and his counsel, Mr. S. H. Blake, admitted that he could not tell which day it was, 9th, 10th or 11th. Under pressure of cross-examination, Mr. Gamey finally fixed upon the 11th as the day on which to claim that he got the money, and the 10th as the day on which he had the first interview, and was shown the letter he would have to sign agreeing to support the Government. He never shifted from the position that on the date of the first interview he was shown the letter and this letter is made the title deed by which Mr. Gamey claims he conveyed himself to the Government; and he now claims that he was not at my office at all on September 9th, but that he was there and saw me there on September 10th and on September 11th. I say, on the contrary, that he was there on September 9th, that I saw

him that day, but that I did not see him on September 10th, nor did I see him on September 11th, the day he alleges he got money through me. Aside from, and in addition to the fact, that Frank Sullivan, Frank Costello, the messenger in my office, and myself, each fixing the date for himself, have sworn that Gamey was at my office, and saw me on the 9th of September, and that he was not there on the 10th and 11th as alleged, there is a peculiar and cogent piece of evidence as to this date which is very convincing.

WHY DID HE CHANGE HIS DATE?

His counsel made this letter, which Mr. Gamey says was shown to him on his first interview with me, be the date when it was, the "bought and sold note," the "muniment of title," as he called it, "the bargain," "the contract," the very foundation of his case. In order that this letter, in itself innocent, should be made to appear corrupt, and should be made to do duty as a "conveyance" of Mr. Gamey to the Government, it had to be in existence at the time the bargain was made, else it could not be the written contract, and it had to be handed over as the promissory note at the time the money was paid, otherwise it could not be the promissory note for which the money was delivered. When this letter was produced, it was dated on the 10th September, and it was signed before Mr. Aylesworth on that day. There was no juggling with that fact or with that date. It was signed not only on that 10th day of September, but it was signed in the afternoon of that day. (Aylesworth, p. 678.) How could it be handed over—the promissory note for the money—on Wednesday, Sept. 10th, at 12.30 o'clock, if it were not signed until after one o'clock on that day. What then? Change the date of the alleged handing over of the letter and receiving of the money. After he had made his statement in the House about the matter he had to push on his date so as to make it fit in with the incontrovertible facts with which he is confronted by the date and time of signing that letter before Mr. Aylesworth.

This convincing piece of evidence which I just alluded to, arises out of the evidence as to what occurred at what Gamey calls the first inter-

view with me in September and what I call his only interview with me during that month, taken in conjunction with my first interview with Mr. Aylesworth on the subject. It is admitted on all hands that the first interview between Mr. Aylesworth and myself, anent the matter, occurred on the afternoon of September 9th at the Parliament Buildings. (Aylesworth p. 681.) Mr. Gamey says that he was shown the letter he would have to sign on the occasion of his first visit. It is further sworn to by Sullivan, who was with Gamey and myself, that an arrangement was made at that first interview that Gamey should see Aylesworth. Gamey admits this. He says of this in his statement, "Frank and I were to go to a prominent lawyer's office, which we did." So that it was arranged at the first interview what lawyer's office they should go to; and when I met Mr. Aylesworth on the evening of September 9th, I was able to say to Mr. Aylesworth, "He will probably go to you to-morrow about his petition." (Aylesworth, p. 678.) How did I know that he would go to Aylesworth, if it had not been arranged before the conversation. And, further, both Frank Sullivan (page 1173) and myself swore that at that interview when Gamey asked about his protest, I said I had nothing to do with the protest, and that he should go to Mr. Grant; and that Gamey objected to going to Mr. Grant, and I, as an alternative, suggested his going to Mr. Aylesworth. Mr. Gamey agreed to that. Mr. Gamey has not from the day that that evidence was given gone into the box to contradict it in any way, but rather admits it. If that is the way in which the arrangement for Mr. Gamey to go to Mr. Aylesworth's office was arrived at—and it undoubtedly is—then that arrangement from the very nature of the two conversations, must have been arrived at before the afternoon of September 9th, when I met Mr. Aylesworth in the Parliament building, and said "He (Gamey) will probably go to you to-morrow."

WAS THE LETTER A CONTRACT?

In order that there may be no misunderstanding let me quote the words of the learned chief counsel for Mr. Gamey, in reference to the letter

as found on pages 6 and 7 of his argument. He says:—"So the price is—as if I had been elected to support your Government," and the consideration which is to be handed over is 'I give you my support,' an actual, absolute purchase and sale on the 10th of September then made." Again referring to this letter he says on page 7: "The deed of bargain and sale was in the office of the Premier." Now, I say that is not so; and I say that the evidence proves it is not so. To begin with, the judges specifically find that it is not so,—“The letter has been called a ‘contract or an evidence of a sale.’ It cannot be so regarded.” (Report page 7.) The whole position of Mr. Gamey and his counsel throughout was that this letter was the bargain and sale. If I can show, then, that this letter is not so, and that this letter had an entirely different origin and went through an entirely different channel than that alleged by Mr. Gamey I shall have broken down his theory and his whole structure must collapse.

Mr. Gamey in his statement to the House, already quoted, says the letter was shown to him on the occasion of his first visit to my office and that that visit was on the 9th of September. Why does he say that? Because he says the whole alleged bargain and arrangement were made that day, and if it was to be reduced to writing that was the proper time to do it. He says the letter was brought back and delivered to me by Frank Sullivan and himself in exchange for the money on the 10th of September (in his statement and the 11th September on his oath.) Of course that was necessary to carry out the theory of his allegations—note delivered, money paid. Now, I propose by the evidence to show that neither of these things is true. In the first place as to the origin of the letter. The letter was suggested to me as a proper thing to have by A. B. Aylesworth on the afternoon of September 9th, after Mr. Gamey had been in my office on the morning of the 9th. (Aylesworth p. 677. Stratton p. 2,425.) This was after Gamey had gone from my office as it is admitted on all hands and I never saw him again that month as I shall show. Now, Gamey claims he saw the letter on the 9th, and it was not

then in existence. What are we to say of him? Is he swearing his theory through? Mr. W. J. Boland says, "I was, and Mr. Gamey was not, in Mr. Stratton's office from 11 o'clock on Sept. 10th until Mr. Stratton left for Osgoode Hall," in a cab and the livery books show that to have been at 12.25 noon. And the cabman by his books shows that I returned at 1.25 p.m., so that Mr. Gamey did not see me at the time he alleges on the 10th. Boland further says he heard me dictate the letter on that day, and that Aylesworth's name was mentioned in that connection before it was dictated (Boland, p 2370) How did Gamey see it before it was dictated? How could I know about Aylesworth if there was no interview on the 9th? How can that letter be the bought and sold note, the contract shown to Gamey on the 9th? Is he fabricating a case? Follow the letter a little further and observe the effort of Mr. Gamey to swear it into a contract. He went to Mr. Aylesworth's office to see about his protest—he and Frank Sullivan. He signed the letter there. Mr. Aylesworth suggested that he, Aylesworth, should keep the letter. But Mr. Gamey hesitated (Aylesworth p 683) He then said he wanted to get a loan of money. Mr. Aylesworth pushed the letter over to him and declined to have anything more to do with it and he (Gamey) folded it up, put it into his pocket and went away. Frank Sullivan and Mr. Aylesworth both agree upon this (Aylesworth p 687) What Does Gamey say? Does he rise to the occasion? Does he swear it into a contract? What does he say about it? See page 10 of his statement, as given in the report of the judges. After stating that the lawyer said the letter would not leave his possession without our being satisfied, "Frank said there was some question of a stock proposition to be settled and Frank refused to do so (leave the letter) and Frank took the letter with him". The money could not be had from -Mr. Aylesworth as Gamey pretends, and so the letter could not be delivered. Has he sworn it into a contract yet? But what does Mr. Aylesworth say of this point? He was asked this question at page 691. "No, Frank Sullivan said there is some question

of a stock consideration to be dealt with before we give up that letter?" Mr. Aylesworth answers, "That is not correct." At 694 Mr. Aylesworth is asked, "Was there anything said about holding the letter until the stock question was settled?" His answer is "no". And again on page 694, Mr. Aylesworth is asked, "and then Mr. Gamey goes on to say, 'but Frank refused to do so' and the answer is, 'That is not true.' Is he trying to swear the letter into a corrupt contract? Is he supplying some of the "colouring" the judges speak of in their report or is he telling the truth? Then lastly he says he and Frank Sullivan delivered the letter at my office between 10 and 12 o'clock (see statement p 10) on the 11th of September and got \$3,000 for it from me. The first place we know of the signed letter by any reliable evidence is, it was in Mr. Gamey's pocket in Mr. Aylesworth's office and the next place we find it is among the mail in the usual way of letters at the Premier's office, opened by his secretary in the usual way. I swear I was not at my office after 10 o'clock on that morning, and I am corroborated by Sullivan, Myers, Costello, Boland and Buckingham. If this is true I could not have been there to receive the letter or to pay the money. Has he sworn the letter into a contract yet? Or has his effort broken down? If it has broken down, his whole theory and his whole story must go with it.

IF HE GOT MONEY HE WOULD KNOW THE DATE

If he did get any money from me Mr. Speaker, do you not think he would know the date he was paid it? I think so, and so will all reasonable and unprejudiced persons.

Against all this we have the evidence of Green. Green gave his evidence so badly, with such unmistakable signs of inaccuracy, as to the time, as to the occasion, as to the various places he visited, as to whether he went back to the Parliament Buildings at all, as to whether I went with him or not, as to his own sobriety and honesty, and as to my residence being at 71 Queen's Park—Mr. Strathy's home—so palpably wrong and unreliable was the evidence of this man on these and many other points, that my counsel said

they would not permit me to gratify the malignant spleen of those who were producing such evidence by dragging the ladies into court to contradict him. (Applause.)

GAMEY'S SELF-CONTRADICTION AS TO MONEY.

Mr. Gamey said that he only received and only had \$1500 going through his bank account about September 11th. (Gamey, page 174.) At page 175 he says he never had as much as \$2,000 passing through his bank account in 1902. Upon an examination of the bank books it was found that he had passing through his piano company account \$900, through his Traders' Bank account \$1,500, and through his Gore Bay bank account \$250, making in all \$2,650. When confronted with these facts he explained that he had borrowed \$1200 of the money, which he at an earlier stage of the trial swore had been given to Frank Sullivan. (Gamey page 2978.) How does he reconcile this with his story to the House? In his statement, printed at page 10 of the Judges' report, he says, speaking of the money which he alleges himself to have received.

"Frank went over and picked up the parcel, and we walked down to the washroom, and Frank took the parcel out of his pocket, and counted it. There was \$3,000 in Ontario Bank bills, of hundreds, fifties, twenties, tens and fives. Frank handed me \$1,500 of this. Frank tore up the envelope. I then left the building alone and went to dinner. I showed the money to a Conservative in the city, and will tell his name when necessary. I went to the Crossin Piano Factory in the afternoon. I left for home on Thursday night, September 11th."

Compare this with the sworn statement at page 2978, when asked about the \$900.

"It was part of the half that Mr. Sullivan received. Mr. Sullivan and I divided the \$3,000, and took \$1,500 each. And then I received of his \$1,500 a loan of \$1,200, for which I gave him my I.O.U., and there were ten \$100 bills in the loan which I received from him, and the balance were fifties, and I put nine \$100 bills of that into the Ontario Bank the same afternoon, and I put the other \$100 bill in Hearst & Burk's bank at Gore Bay, and the \$50 when I returned."

Where did they draw up the I.O.U.? Was it in the washroom? It could not have been in the corridor, nor outside, because he says, "I left the Building alone, and went to dinner."

Did he, as a fact, on his own sworn story, after the money is discovered in his bank account, get \$2,700 out of \$3,000 in the washroom? If he did, when he said he got only \$1,500, what was his object in deceiving the House and the public? What was his object in swearing he got \$1,500 on this occasion at the beginning of the trial, if the fact was that on this occasion he received \$2,700? Why did he tell the reporters in Buffalo that he gathered up this \$900 in the Island during the summer, and why did he deny upon oath that he told the reporters that he gathered up the money on the Island during the summer? He did deny that he had told the reporters this, and the moment the Judges confronted him with the reporters, and said to Mr. Johnston "You may call the reporters," why did he like a coward say, "I will admit I told the papers. (Pages 2986 and 2987.) And the reporters' evidence on this matter will be found on the pages immediately following.

GAMEY ADDITIONALLY CONTRADICTED.

In his statement he says, as I have quoted, that the \$3,000 was made up of Ontario Bank bills of hundreds, fifties, twenties, tens and fives. At page 695 of the evidence Mr. Strathy is called and produces the deposit slip by which the \$1,500 was deposited in the Traders' Bank. This slip shows that deposit to have consisted of ten fifty, and ten one hundred dollar bills. The money he alleges he borrowed from Frank Sullivan consisted of, as he tells us, and as you will see from the answers that I quoted a moment ago from page 2978 of the evidence—the bills which he received from Frank Sullivan—consisted of ten one hundred dollar bills, making \$1000, and the balance were fifty dollar bills. Where were the twenties, tens and fives? Mr. Crossin says in his evidence about the deposit, that he saw the money which Mr. Gamey deposited that day, the \$1500. "I saw the bills. I could only see two or three on the face of them; they were bills of large dimensions. I saw tens and fifties." There were no ten dollar bills deposited in the

Traders' Bank that day. There were ten dollar bills in the money which Mr. Gamey received from somebody that day, and which, according to his story, he received from me, but there is \$2700 the total amount which he claims to have received from me through Sullivan, in hundreds and fifties, on his own sworn statement, and he still had tens in this parcel, as Mr. Crossin swears. Does he want to revise his story once more, and say that he borrowed some more from Frank Sullivan on an I.O.U.? Mr. Gamey pretends that he got this money in exchange for the letter of the tenth of September. Why did Mr. Gamey not produce his bank books as he was subpoenaed to do? (Gamey, page 173.) Why did Mr. Crossin not produce his books when he was called, as he was subpoenaed to do? Why did he delay and dodge the production of the books for five days after he was originally put into the box to tell his story? Why did he not produce them until a bench warrant was threatened? Why were the Crossin piano books destroyed? Why was the Ontario bank slip carried off or destroyed? Why did the accuser flee to Buffalo? And why, in the face of all this dangerous effort to conceal the source of the money, are we asked to say, where did the money come from? I say, sir, if it were for no other reason than the contradictions contained in the accuser's story as given to the House, and in his evidence taken together with his remarkable conduct in connection with the bank deposit slips, the Piano Company books, and his I. O.U. story, the story is utterly discredited and falls to the ground of its own inherent rottenness and wickedness. (Applause.) When I have thus pointed out to you the improbabilities, the contradictions, and the peculiar conduct of the accuser, I ask you to remember at the same time, and to hold and weigh in your mind, the story of my venerable friend, the counsel for the prosecution, that Mr. Gamey was bought and sold by the letter—the contract, the promissory note—which was alleged to have been handed over for the money. Remember how completely upon the evidence that part of the framework of the accuser's case topples for want of support from the evidence. Put that part of the case alongside the improbable, ir-

rational, contradictory, unnatural, dishonest and chimerical story of a payment through me to the accuser on the 11th day of September. If that is done, sir, I have no fear of the conclusion in the conscience of any honest and dispassionate man. (Applause.)

GAMEY'S EVIDENCE DISCREDITED.

Remember here that Mr. Aylesworth swears that "no question of a stock proposition to be settled before the letter was parted with, was discussed." Remember that he swears that "Frank Sullivan did not refuse to leave the letter." Remember that he swears that the accuser "folded up the letter and put it into his pocket." Remember that Sullivan and myself swear that the letter was not delivered to me on the 11th of September. Remember that Miss Jeffrey swears that the letter came to the Premier, not through me, but through the mail in the ordinary course, and bear in mind that the only man who says that all this is not true is the man whom, after hearing all the evidence, two of the most learned, the ablest, the most upright and the most fearless judges of this land, have declared to be an utterly discredited man. Remember also that the only man who upon his oath in this investigation has controverted this chain of evidence, sworn to, as I have shown you, is a man who, upon his own avowal, set out to be a spy and a common informer — a man who repeatedly shifts and twists and turns in the witness box, a man who, if we are to believe the evidence of his relative and quondam adviser, Jones, proposed before he began his public career, to enter Parliament to procure profit for himself from any Government that might be in power in this fair province. (Applause.)

EVIDENCE AS TO THE LETTER.

But what is the evidence that this letter of the 10th of September was not delivered to me, and that I did not provide \$3,000 to be delivered to this accuser in return therefor? Because this is avowed by the prosecution to be the crux of the whole matter.

I have shown you already that Mr. Gamey could not have seen me at the time he alleges in his evidence, because at that time I was engaged

with Mr. Boland, and I dictated the letter of the tenth in the latter's presence, and it should always be kept in mind, in considering this branch of the case, that the accuser in his evidence shifts his dates, when he comes to the box, from the 9th and 10th, to the 10th and 11th; and denies being at my office on the 9th. What then is the evidence to show that I did not receive the letter at the time alleged, on the 11th, that I did not see Mr. Gamey, as he alleges, and that I, therefore, could not show him the package, and have the money delivered to him, as he affirms? Mr. Boland swears that he came to my office at about ten o'clock, and that I went to the Trust Company with him on King street and that he remained with me, except for trifling intervals, from that time until after one o'clock on that day, and that I was still at the Trust Company's office on King street, more than a mile away from the Parliament Buildings at the time the informer alleges himself to have received this package of money through me. Remember, too, that Mr. Gamey, at page 10 of his statement in the House, as printed in the Judges' Report, says that it was about twelve thirty when he saw me. Boland swears that all the intervals during which he was out of my company from ten o'clock in the morning until one o'clock in the afternoon, were over by a quarter to twelve o'clock. (Boland's evidence, p. 2372-3-4.) Mr. Buckingham, a most reputable barrister, living at Guelph, and practising there, had occasion to arrange a large business transaction with the Trust Company's manager on the 11th day of September, and to deposit in a banking institution in this city the proceeds of that transaction.

THE DATE POSITIVELY FIXED.

The date is thus fixed with him beyond peradventure, and he swears that he saw Mr. Boland and myself going out of the office of the manager of the Trust Company into the general offices of the company, which lead to the board room, at shortly after eleven o'clock. (Buckingham, p. 3130.) Mr. Sullivan swears that he did not see me on the 11th September, and that he did not deliver any letter, receive any money, or have any transaction with me or with the

accuser on that day. Mr. Costello, the messenger at my office, whose duty it is to show persons who come to see me in and out of my office, and to ascertain who they are, and what their business is, swears that neither Mr. Gamey nor Mr. Sullivan, were there on that day, and that they were never there in the month of September on two consecutive days. He fixes the date by means of a report of the Conservative caucus held on the 10th of September, which was reported on the 11th of September in the Mail and World, and at which caucus Mr. Gamey is reported to have made a speech. A part of his duty was to cut out and paste upon sheets of paper all reports of political meetings, and he did cut out and paste up the report of this particular meeting, and swears he can accurately fix the date thereby. And in contradiction to this account, so sworn to by Mr. Boland, Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Costello, Mr. Sullivan, and myself, there is no evidence, except the oath of the man of whom the judges, after having him under observation for the twenty-seven days during which the trial continued, say, "BY HIS OWN CONFES- SION HE PRACTISED SYSTEMATIC DUPLICITY, AND PURSUED TORTUOUS COURSES OF DEALING WITH SELF-SERVING INTERESTS MUCH IN VIEW. IMPLICIT RELIANCE SHOULD NOT BE PLACED UPON HIS UNCORROBORATED STATEMENTS IN MATERIAL POINTS, AND WHERE THESE STATEMENTS CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF INDEPENDENT OR DIS- INTERESTED WITNESSES, THE LATTER SHOULD BE PREFERR- ED." (Judges' report, page 45.)

INCONSISTENCIES AND CONTRADICTIONS.

We have in Mr. Gamey's latest version of where part of the money came from, that is the \$900 which an investigation of the bank account of Mr. Gamey's Piano Company showed to have been deposited on the 11th of September, the allegation that the \$900 came out of the same transaction as the \$1500 which he himself alleged to have received from Frank Sullivan in the lavatory on September 11th. But, apparently, a different source from which to account for this money had been determined upon by Mr. Gamey when he went into this

case, if by any chance the fact that this \$900 was deposited by him upon the same date as the date upon which he deposited the \$1500 alleged bribe money was stumbled upon by the defence. Why? Because Mr. Gamey at the outset alleged that he gave this very money to Frank Sullivan, which he knew was invested in his own business. The further evidence of this follows, and flows from the facts and statements which we find in an examination of the evidence in reference to the mutilation of the Piano Company books, the destruction of the bank deposit slip, the flight to Buffalo, and the statement made to the reporters there.

TORTUOUS TRANSACTIONS DEALT WITH.

I desire now to lay before the House in some detail the account of these tortuous transactions as given by the witnesses from the witness box. This is necessary, because the dates and times at which certain statements were made and certain acts done, are of very great importance in arriving at a reason for certain contradictions and incredible statements and actions. Mr. Crossin, who was Mr. Gamey's manager in the piano business, and who was his confidant and friend, as he alleges (in part, at any rate) in his now famous plot, was called and put forward as a reliable witness on Mr. Gamey's behalf on Wednesday, April 15th. (Crossin, page 650.) Before he was put into the box by the prosecution he had been served with a subpoena requiring him to bring with him and to produce in evidence before the court, the books of the piano business of which he was manager, and of which Mr. Gamey was the principal owner. Mr. Crossin did not produce his books, and when he had seen such evidence as he could on that day for Mr. Gamey, it was necessary to adjourn his cross examination until he should bring with him his books. (Page 660.) All day Thursday, Mr. Gamey's counsel did not put Mr. Crossin back into the box with his books for cross-examination. On Friday Mr. Johnston called attention to the fact that three attempts had been made to examine Mr. Crossin's books, preparatory to cross-examining him. Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Gamey's counsel, then for the first time, said there was an objection to allowing the books to

be examined, because it was desired that all information contained in the books "should be kept secret from the public." This undertaking was at once given. (Page 918.) And it was ordered that the books should be produced for examination at four o'clock on that day at the piano factory. Accordingly Mr. McPherson and Mr. Macdonald for the prosecution, and Mr. McEvoy for the defence, attended at the piano factory and examined Mr. Gamey's books. And then it was discovered that Mr. Gamey had paid into his piano business on the 11th of September the sum of \$900.

THE MUTILATED ACCOUNT BOOK.

This fact was learned from an examination of the bank book. But the leaves of the books of account of the company in which were entered the transactions of Mr. Gamey's piano business for the months of September, October, November, December and January, were missing. On the Monday following, Mr. Crossin was called to produce the books in court, and did not answer, and a messenger was sent for him. (Page 993.) Again on Monday he was called to produce these books, and does not answer, and the Judges threatened the issuance of a bench warrant. (Pages 1008-9.) Shortly after this, and on the same day, Mr. Crossin appeared in court and produced his books. Five days had elapsed after his appearance in the box without his books, before his re-appearance with the books. During these five days strange things occurred. Go back with me to the Saturday morning following the Friday on which the books were examined by counsel at the piano factory. Mr. Gamey and Mr. Crossin were down to business early that morning. Mr. Crossin was at the bank with his bank book before banking hours, and was let in at the side door. Mr. Gamey, the man whom the judges declare pursued "tortuous courses," was at the bank shortly after ten o'clock. He asked Mr. Howarth, the teller, to be permitted to see the bank deposit slip by which the deposit of \$900 was made on the 11th of September to the credit of the piano business. Mr. Howarth knew an investigation into Mr. Gamey's charges was in progress, and declined to give out the slip to Mr. Gamey, even for inspection, without an order from the accountant and

manager of the bank, and told Mr. Gamey to get such an order. Mr. Gamey did not desire to approach these officers of the bank upon the subject, and asked the young man, who was the teller, to speak for him to the accountant. After consultation, the teller was instructed to let Mr. Gamey SEE THE SLIP, and after examining it, he handed it out through the wicket to the accuser in this case. Mr. Gamey took the slip to the public desk provided in the bank, and what he did there was not closely observed by the bank teller, but in a short time he returned and slid a slip in through the teller's wicket, and started for the door.

SUBSTITUTION OF BANK DEPOSIT SLIP.

The teller at once observed that this was not the slip which he had given to Mr. Gamey, and called to him to come back. The teller says he thinks that Mr. Gamey was close enough to hear, but Mr. Gamey continued his course, and disappeared. (Howarth, page 1650.) The teller called the messenger of the bank, and showed him the slip which had been a moment before handed in by Mr. Gamey. It was a slip depositing to the credit of the piano company on the 11th of September, \$900, made up of certain numbers of three different denominations of small bills. The teller instructed the messenger to call upon Mr. Gamey at the factory and to demand from him the slip which had been given out by the teller for inspection. The messenger went to the factory, and asked for the genuine slip. Mr. Gamey affected great surprise, searched his pockets, declared there must be a mistake, and when confronted with the bogus slip he assured the messenger that it was the slip which he (Gamey) had received from the teller. The teller himself later was sent to the factory by the bank manager, and endeavoured to secure from Mr. Gamey the original slip. Mr. Gamey exhibited all that duplicity that the judges mentioned in their report as characterizing him. He searched his pockets. He declared he must have lost it. He went searching with the teller up and down the streets for the pretended lost slip, and finally declared that the one which he handed back to the teller must be the original. But the

teller had examined it closely before giving it out, and had observed that the deposit consisted of nine \$100 bills and that it had his (the teller's) initial upon it. The deposit slip returned by Gamey had a deposit made up of tens, twenties and fifties, and had only a very poor imitation of the teller's initial. Mr. Gamey failed to force down the throats of the bank officials the notion that this was the slip which he had obtained from the teller. About three o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Gamey returned and approached Mr. Brown, the accountant. He said to him, "I have just this minute found the lost slip. It slid into my glove," and he forthwith produced a crumpled and worn slip, purporting to deposit to the credit of the piano business nine \$100 bills on the 11th day of September, 1902. The teller's initial was on it in blue pencil, but was not formed at all well nor was it much like the true initial of the teller. The slip had not on it the folio of the bank books wherein the deposit of \$900 was entered. It was soon discovered to be another attempt on the part of Mr. Gamey to foist on the bank a false document. And the accountant very firmly and pointedly informed Mr. Gamey that this too was not the slip which he had taken from the teller. (Brown, page 1,686.) This was just before three o'clock on Saturday, and the four o'clock train of that day bore away with it to Buffalo the man whom the judges declare "practised systematic duplicity." (Applause.)

After this performance, will anyone doubt that this man has sufficient audacity and sufficient duplicity to make on the floor of this House utterly false charges against me or any other man. (Applause.)

BOTH GAMEY AND ACCOUNT BOOKS IN HIDING.

Return now to his confidant and partner, Mr. Crossin. Remember Mr. Gamey's departure apparently from the bank to the train. We have no account of Mr. Gamey and Mr. Crossin having any conversation at a time later than that at which Mr. Gamey was declaring that the slip which made up the deposit of \$900 in small bills was either the original slip or a copy of it. Mr. Gamey is hiding in Buffalo, during the following Sunday, Monday and

Tuesday and Mr. Crossin is hiding the piano books in Toronto, until he is forced into the box on Monday under the threat of a bench warrant and swears he knows nothing of the whereabouts of his partner and confidant, the man of "duplicity." He swears he did not make the deposit of \$900, but that he was present when Mr. Gamey made the deposit and it was made in the forenoon of September 11th,—a time prior to the time at which the "man of the hour" declared himself to have received the bribe money. Mr. McEvoy declares that Crossin told him that the latter had received the money—the \$900—from Mr. Gamey on the 10th of September, and when he (the witness Crossin) is confronted with this statement he will not admit it, though he dares not deny it. He made a strong effort to assist in proving a state of facts that would make it impossible for this \$900 of money to have the same source as the alleged bribe money. And what is Mr. Gamey doing at this time? He is adding to his reputation for falsehood and duplicity by stating to reporters of the public press, who located him in Buffalo on Tuesday evening, that the \$900 had no connection with his alleged bribery transaction. He had seen the newspaper report of the evidence. He had seen that Mr. Crossin, the day before, had sworn that the money was deposited at an hour prior to the time at which the alleged bribe money was received, according to his (Gamey's) story, and true to his character, and true to his confidant he says, "I can account for every dollar of it. It had nothing to do with the bribery transaction. I gathered it up in the Island during the summer." Still hoping against hope that he would be able by some bold stroke to convert the \$900 deposit from a deposit made up of \$100 bills to a deposit made up of bills of ordinary denominations, and thereby make possible his allegation that these bills were gathered during the summer in his "Island home." His conduct comes to the ears of his overzealous counsel, but even the zeal, inspired by party conflict and party hatred is not sufficient to induce them to allow themselves to be tied

up to a man who could be guilty of such conduct.

MR. GAMEY'S COUNSEL REPUDIATES HIM.

And Mr. Blake, for the only time during the whole course of a long trial, rose to the level of his former greatness, and told the Court that he must be relieved from further representing this man. He declined to proceed with the case, and the Court was adjourned in order that a consideration might be had as to the further proceeding of the Commission. It was hoped that Mr. Gamey might make some explanation of his conduct, which would enable counsel to continue to represent him, but to this hour he has not explained that conduct. Then it was that the services of that celebrated retriever, the member for West Lambton, were invoked by his master, the great Conservative party. Mr. Hanna was despatched to Buffalo, and what pressure was brought to bear, or what inducement was offered the fallen idol to return, has never been revealed, but by some means he was prevailed upon to return, and once more take up the odious burden he had forsaken. Still his counsel declined to follow him, and declared that if the Commission thought it was in the interests of the public that they should continue their labours, as counsel for the public they would do so. The defence was not willing that matters should rest here but desired that these scandalous matters should be cleared up in the sight of all men.

Now, sir, we have heard epithets hurled at the heads of respectable people. We have heard "liar," "perjurer," "scoundrel," "suborner of perjury," "thief," "fabricator of evidence" and "assassin" flung in the face of men of character. If I am, sir, to discuss this case in plain Anglo-Saxon, I am sure I shall need these epithets. Might I not say to Mr. Blake, "I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word." (Applause.)

WHY SUCH CONDUCT?

Let me ask what was the motive for all these unlawful, these wicked, these incriminating actions. There could be but one. It was to avoid being unmasked. This man's boundless perfidy would have been brought home to the spoiler and fabricator

with even more telling effect than it has been, if the evidence against him had not been destroyed. Would any man commit such acts except to shield himself from a crushing exposure? (Applause.)

THE SOURCE OF THE MONEY.

Where did the money come from? That is what the people of this province, and the members of this House have been trying to discover, and that is what, I think, the member for Manitoulin has been trying to conceal for these three long weary months. He destroyed the account books, he concealed the bank books, he carried away the bank slip, all of which would have told the story of where the money came from. He, anxious to know where the money came from! He did not even honestly tell his counsel where the money came from, according to his own latest story. He did not even tell his friends! And he himself does not believe the story he has told as to where the money came from. I am satisfied that if the books and evidence, which he has made inaccessible to the Court, were available, we should know where the money came from.

Is there any necessity for the money to come from any mysterious or improper source? I think not. This man had his own unendorsed notes falling due at the Traders' Bank in Sudbury within a week of the time at which he deposited the \$1,500 in Toronto, and he owed the piano business \$900 at the very time he paid that amount into that concern, and Mr. Crossin says he had been intending to pay it for some time. He told Mr. Martin, within a few days of the time that he deposited the money, that he was closing a mining deal about that time. Is it improbable that he did close the mining deal, and that the money came from there? No businessman would be surprised that a person who can discount his own notes unendorsed at a chartered bank for \$1500, will be able to meet his debts due for that amount in money. Why is there any necessity to look far afield for any other source? Mr. Gamey himself says that he could at any time "get \$1,500 on twenty-four hours' notice," that he had "lots of assets and lots of credit," (page 183.)

GAMEY'S INCONSISTENT CONDUCT.

But, sir, Mr. Gamey's conduct if it was as he alleges, has been very inconsistent. If I had bought him on the 9th, 10th, or 11th, or rather if I had paid him money in connection with his plot, with the promise of a further \$2,000, he should have been growing stronger if he was a good actor, and he has given evidence of fair ability in that regard. But, sir, what do we find? This man who had received earnest money, and who was trying to lead me to believe, according to his story, that he expected a further \$2,000 was growing weaker. On the 10th of September he wrote the Premier saying he would give him an almost absolute support, but by the 27th of October he wrote again declaring he would support the Government only in case they "should have a reasonable majority when the House met." He continued to get weaker and weaker. In January he went into the three Norths in the bye-elections. That too was a part of the plot! He was still trying to give the Government absolute assurance that he meant to support them. He destroyed his alleged written agreement to retain the confidence of the Sullivans. He dare not even suggest that he had left the written agreement at home, lest they should become suspicious of him. And in keeping with that great care lest he should excite the suspicion of the Government or his friends, that he was not honest in his professions of sympathy and support, he gives a little demonstration of his party fidelity by taking part in the bye-elections in the three Norths, and by confiding to his Liberal friends the great jealousy which his quondam leader, Mr. Whitney, had displayed in those ridings on account of the great popularity which his (Mr. Gamey's) oratory brought him.

THE GLOBE INTERVIEW.

Then this honourable member for Manitoulin alleges that on the 29th of January he received from me \$1,000 in payment for his signature to the Globe interview. Now let us look for a moment at the circumstances under which he says he got the \$1,000 and let us look at what he says he got the \$1,000 for. He says he got it for the Globe interview. What is in it that anyone

would pay money for? Why should anyone pay for the Globe interview at that stage. The Government had just carried the bye-elections in the three Norths. They were quite independent of Mr. Gamey and his vote at that time. Had they wished a declaration from Mr. Gamey to assist them why not have it before the elections in the three Norths? If the Government had any confidence in Mr. Gamey or any desire to misuse him, to take advantage of him, or utilise his weaknesses in any way, why not publish the letters? It has been said that the formal letters were objectionable. No need to publish the formal letter, if it was objectionable. Why could not the Premier have said to a reporter any day after the 10th of September or any day after the 27th of October, "Mr. Robert Roswell Gamey, the member for Manitoulin, has directed a letter to the Premier, in which he declares that he is going to support the Government?" That would have been absolutely true, that would have been unobjectionable from any point of view that has been urged against it. These letters were in the possession of the Government. Why get another document, at the cost of \$1,000, at the risk of a good name, at the risk of exposure? To do what? To do what it already in their power to do without any breach of faith, without any breach of trust, without any wrong-doing, or impropriety on their part. No one in his senses would believe that any man would take risks, spend time, money and energy to get such a document as the Globe interview, when he had such documents as the letters of the 10th of September and the 27th October in his possession, and at his disposal, to use either in whole or in part, as he might see fit. (Hear, hear.)

ARRANGEMENT OF THE "BARGAIN."

Now, let us see how Mr. Gamey says the bargain was arrived at by which he was to get the \$1000 for the Globe interview. He tells about it himself. He gives his own account of it. He says that the first and only time that money was mentioned to him, was after he had left my office on the 29th of January, and let us see whether the conversation he there details is the kind of conversation in which \$1,000 interviews

are bartered and sold. At page 119 of the recorded evidence he tells his story of how this important bargain was arrived at. He says, "I saw Mr. Stratton on the 29th of January. He wanted me to sign an interview that he had prepared for the Globe, and he wanted me to name the License Commissioners for the riding. Those are the principal things he wanted." At page 124, he says, "Frank Sullivan was with me when I was in conversation with Mr. Stratton in regard to that interview in the first place, and after we came out from Mr. Stratton's office that afternoon Sullivan told me if I would sign that interview we would get \$1000 cash." Sullivan denies this, but THERE is the first mention, and the only mention, in connection with the Globe interview, of getting money. There is the time, place and manner of making a bargain to pay money for the Globe interview.

THE FIRST MENTION OF MONEY.

Now, let us see what stage the matter had arrived at when he says the first mention of money was made. Mr. Gamey says that on January 13th — two weeks before this gratuitous offer of \$1,000 — he was at my office, and that he there in the presence of Dr. Chamberlain, had a long discussion as to his political course, and as to the affairs of his riding. Dr. Chamberlain swears that on that occasion Mr. Gamey declared his intention and willingness to give an interview to the press, clearly defining his position, and putting all his actions and conduct beyond suspicion. Dr. Chamberlain swears that there Mr. Gamey told me that he desired to publish an interview and asked me if I would prepare for him an interview. I suggested that he do it himself, and he intimated that he preferred that it should be done by me. I then said, as Dr. Chamberlain swears, that if he would say to me what he wanted said in the interview, that I would have it written out in some sort of shape for him. And he said he would come in the next time he was in town, and would give it to the press. From these notes given on January 13th, the interview was prepared. There was no talk of money, no demand for money, no suggestion of money, he himself suggesting that he would give the interview in the

presence of Dr. Chamberlain. The interview was prepared. He comes, according to his own agreement, to sign it, finds that it is not exactly in keeping with his own ideas. He takes the interview away for the purpose of righting it, or amending it to suit himself, and under these circumstances he passes out of the door, and there, on the 29th of January, he says, Frank Sullivan told him that he could get \$1000 for it; and that, without more ado, upon his returning and delivering that interview, such an interview as it was, he was actually handed over \$1000. He and Sullivan, according to his story, take the money out to the west door of the Parliament Buildings, this \$1,000, and in the full glare of the light, divide it in plain view of the passers-by who at that hour throng the park drive. He says he gave \$500 to Frank Sullivan, and \$500 he carried in his pocket from that time until the House met. Four hundred and fifty dollars of the \$500 was made up of fifty dollars Merchants' Bank bills.

NO EFFORT MADE TO TRACE THE MONEY.

We have heard of no effort on the part of the prosecution to trace these bills. Do they know where they came from? Could they not ascertain where they came from? They had the identical bills in that case, if Gamey is to be believed. Why was not some effort made to trace these bills? Or did those who were behind the prosecution in this matter know too well where they came from? Were they loaned to the member for Manitoulin for the purpose of making up the deposit, as the funds to make up the \$1500 were? And in connection with the money, is it not worthy of note that up to the present time, if I am right in my assumption that party friends supplied the \$500, as well as the \$1500, that Mr. Gamey has not yet produced in the House one dollar of the money which he so blatantly declared he received as a bribe. Because the \$1500 was alleged to have been loaned by the member for Algoma upon Piano Company stock, which the evidence very quickly revealed, had never been transferred, mortgaged or otherwise dealt with. At the present moment, if you like, there is just as much mystery as to where the \$1500 came from that was

deposited to repay the bribery money which Mr. Gamey declares he spent, as there is as to where the original \$1500 came from, if there was any original \$1500. I have very little doubt that many hon. members opposite could tell where the money came from, so far as this last \$1500 is concerned, and if Mr. Gamey on the 10th day of September, when the Conservative brethren were having their "love feast" in this city, declared to his Conservative friends, as he has more than once stated he did, that he was going to support the Government and that his election expenses, amounting to \$1,500, had not been paid by the party, that his notes for that amount were maturing at Sudbury, and if he was as needy for money as his counsel intimated he was at the investigation, the \$1500 could not have been hard to raise.

VALUE OF THE GLOBE INTERVIEW.

But to return to the Globe interview. What is this interview for which it was alleged \$1,000 was paid? The Globe interview is a statement of Mr. Gamey's position, which Mr. Scott swears when he saw it, after having discussed public questions on the platform with Mr. Gamey in the Socialist interest during the campaign—after having heard speech after speech of Mr. Gamey's, Mr. John Scott swears that the Globe interview represented to his mind "exactly the position that Mr. Gamey had taken during the campaign. It was not a matter of surprise or change. It was exactly what he would expect Mr. Gamey to do from his public utterances under the circumstances which had transpired."

The Globe interview is a statement which Mr. Martin and Mr. Bowen, the two strangers from Kemptville, whom Mr. Gamey confided in at the Walker House on the first of September, declare fairly and honestly to represent the views which he at that time expressed to them. It is an interview which a large number of witnesses have declared to fairly represent Mr. Gamey's political convictions as expressed on many occasions prior to his ever having been in the House or associated in any way with me or with any of those whom he now says were flies in his spider web. And what does it amount to? What is there in it

that anyone should pay for? The interview declares that Mr. Gamey will give the government an independent support, and that he will stand by them in want of confidence votes "in matters that he is satisfied with." What kind of use could a support of that kind be to the Government. That is just the support which would be of no use to the Government. At no time it was urged that the Globe interview was a document made and put forward by me, expressing my views, and with which Mr. Gamey had no concern. On examination of the original document, and a comparison with the interview as published in the Globe, you will find that not more than one-third of the matter there appearing is the matter originally prepared by me from the notes given by Mr. Gamey on the 13th of January. Moreover, you will find that the whole trend and sense of the article is altered and frittered away. Again assume that Mr. Gamey was playing a part, as he says he was, why should he alter the interview? Why should he reduce it so that it did not guarantee to the government any support when support would be needed? If he were playing a part and got his money, what difference does it make what his statement in the Globe was? The stronger it was the better. The stronger it was the more credence it would have given to his story—the weaker the less worthy of credit. He did not intend to carry it out anyway. It was only intended to mislead the Government—to trap them, so he now says. Why should he quarrel with the Government as to the extent he would go? Why should he point out, as he swears he did, that if he went as far as the Government was suggesting, he would ruin the Government? According to his story, that is exactly what he wanted to do.

PERTINENT INQUIRIES.

Why should I step out of my office into the vestibule to tell him that I had given Frank Sullivan money for him, and why tell him the denomination of the bills? Was it to give him an absolute knowledge of the fact that I was supplying money to buy him when he pretends every other act was an effort to conceal from him any such conduct on my part. No

man in his senses believes any such statement was made, or that I handed to Mr. Sullivan any money to give to Mr. Gamey. Mr. Gamey knows the facts as well as I do, and on his own statement made in the House he knew that at no interview, or on no occasion, did he ever ask for, or speak to me of any "consideration" of money, and the only time that he ever used the words "consideration" to me was when he asked to have the same consideration extended to him as a supporter of the Government, as was extended to other Government supporters. Does anyone believe that Gamey and Sullivan divided bribe money in front of the Parliament Buildings in the glare of the light in this great city? The whole story, Mr. Speaker, bears the marks of fabrication. Why was no effort made by the prosecution to trace the alleged nine \$50 bills? They made a great ado about the bills that were alleged to have been paid on the 9th, 10th, or 11th September; they made a great effort to trace the \$3,000 of Ontario Bank bills. What evidence have we that they were Ontario Bank bills? There is the evidence, Mr. Speaker, that the Traders' Bank sent through the clearing house on the 12th bills amounting to a certain number, but if my memory serves me correctly, there is no evidence that these were the identical bills, and I tell the hon. gentlemen, they might search till the crack of doom, until the end of time, and they will never be able to trace any money to my hands that ever was placed in the hands of any person to go to the hon. member for Manitoulin. (Applause.)

If I am right, Mr. Speaker, in assuming that the hon. member's party friends provided him with the \$500 which he deposited in court, then he has in his possession on his own story, bribe money which he is still hugging to his virtuous bosom. In any event, and strictly upon his own story, he still has stowed away in his own patriotic coffers, 32700 of bribe money. (Applause.) But, perhaps, if the truth were known, and it is not at all improbable that on the 10th September when Mr. Gamey went down to the Conservative leaders, at their urgent solicitation, and when he explained the nature of the contest that he had to run, when he shewed his

party friends the cost of the fight he had put up — that, perhaps, then and there they provided him with funds and that these were the funds which were deposited in the Traders' Bank and deposited in connection with the Crossin Piano business and Mr. Gamey's story.

DID GAMEY'S FRIENDS PROVIDE MONEY?

I do not say that that is the way in which the money is to be accounted for, but I have just as good reason to think it might have been provided by some of the friends of Mr. Gamey at that very time for his election expenses as that it was provided in any other way. The large sum of \$3,000 in one man's hands, if the man is known, Mr. Speaker, every business man knows, is hard to hide in these days of keenness and system in commercial transactions — it is just about as difficult to hide as one hundred acres of land. If you give me the name of a man who absolutely drew \$3,000 and paid that money to Mr. Gamey, or anybody else, there will be no difficulty in a short time in absolutely tracing where that money came from, because business men know that money, large sized cheques of that amount, could not be withdrawn from banks without their being traced.

Now, let me ask, what was there in the Globe interview to pay for, or why should it be paid for? He said he was going to support the Government "in matters in which he was satisfied." Why every member of the Opposition supports the Government in matters in which they are satisfied. There is no question of doubt about that, no question that they do; there are votes in this House on some matters that they are satisfied with when they support the Government, and that is all Mr. Gamey said he would do in the statement as it was published. If he were going to give an interview that was likely to be useful for the Government — an interview which would be paid for by even a corrupt Government — it certainly would have been an interview that would have been more than the statements this alleged corrupt interview contained. Now his friends were not surprised when they read that interview. Mr. Scott, the Socialist,

said it exactly represented Mr. Gamey's pre-election utterances. Mr. Martin and Mr. Bowen said it represented his views expressed to them — he only promised an independent support in matters he was satisfied with. If that be the case why was he paid for it? Why was it altered by Mr. Gamey himself, if he were playing a part? If he was conscientious in trying to support the Government there was good reason for his altering the interview, so that neither he nor the Government should be compromised, and that he might be in the position he might seem desirous of taking when he entered the House but if it was a plot, why alter the interview?

GAMEY'S POINT OF TURNING.

Now when did the honourable gentlemen determine not to support the Government? I think he himself, while he will not perhaps admit it, could bear me out in saying it was the time when he saw his friend McMillan. Then it was that Mr. Gamey became convinced that the Liberals were intriguing to run Mr. McMillan against him, if he could be forced to resign his seat in the House. Then he determined upon his "plot" story, and then he began to write his now famous tale. After Mr. Sullivan had refused to help him "hold up" the Government, he changed the sheets in his written story. Was the man looking for evidence? Why did he destroy the written contract, the evidence of the crime? Why did he destroy the contract with Sullivan? Why did he destroy, and I might emphasise it, the Piano Company books, and the evidence that there was a crime if there was any crime? Then he said in his affidavit on production that the copy of the alleged agreement with Frank Sullivan would be produced. Why was it not shown to the court? Was it, Mr. Speaker, because the particular kind of paper, on which the alleged copy of the agreement was written, was not in use or existence at the time alleged. The defence had investigated as to this point, and the hon. gentleman knows whether the insinuations contained in these remarks are correct, or whether they are not.

THE PROTEST MATTER CONSIDERED.

Let us see what the facts are in

connection with the protest, and what connection, if any, I am shown by the evidence, to have had with it. And about the facts I am now about to relate there can be no possible dispute. It is set out in pages 2408 and 2409 of the evidence, and is a matter well within the knowledge of hon. members on both sides of the House. When the Premier left for England to attend to official duties, he asked me to have an oversight of the protests, which I agreed to do. As a result of this I met representatives of the Opposition for a few minutes, Mr. Foy, Mr. Bristol, and Dr. Beattie Nesbitt. The first time I met them myself, as all my colleagues were out of the city. The second time I met them in company with Mr. Latchford, Mr. Harcourt and Mr. Grant. A definite arrangement was arrived at between the parties. It was agreed that no protest would be entered against Mr. Whitney, Mr. Foy, and Mr. Beattie Nesbitt on the Conservative side, nor against the Premier, myself, and Mr. Latchford, on the Liberal side. The majorities in all these cases were large. At a subsequent meeting of the same persons there were about twenty or thirty constituencies on each side put upon the same list, that is, it was agreed that protests should not be filed in the case of twenty or thirty seats on each side of the House. That was all the outcome of the meetings, and the only result of my connection with the protests. These facts are sworn to and are not contradicted. I had nothing whatever to do with the Manitoulin protest, first nor last, and knew nothing about it. Now, I will point out what the facts are in reference to the protest as stated in the evidence of Mr. R. A. Grant, solicitor for the Ontario Liberal Association, who had the matter of protests in hand, and he has given upon oath his account of what occurred. Most of the important matters deposed to by Mr. Grant could have been easily explained or contradicted by Mr. Bristol, the solicitor for the Conservative Association, if Mr. Grant's account was in any way inaccurate. As Mr. Bristol has not seen fit to in any way differ from Mr. Grant, it is only fair to assume that Mr. Grant's evidence, as I have no doubt it is, is absolutely correct, and his memory of what occurred is faithful to the facts. Mr. Grant gives his account of it,

commencing at page 1060, where he says that the Government were not his clients, as had been alleged, that he considered that Mr. Fraser, the defeated candidate, and the Liberal Association jointly, were his clients in the case.

HOW MANITOULIN PROTEST WAS ARRANGED.

At page 1050 Mr. Grant explains that Mr. Connors provided the money to put into Court \$1000 in order that the protest might be launched. So far I seem to have had no connection. Then Mr. Grant engaged Mr. Stanton, a legal gentleman in Hamilton, to go up to Manitoulin, and in co-operation with Mr. Murray, the local solicitor, to look up the evidence and report to him. Mr. Stanton made both a verbal and a written report to Mr. Grant, and the report has been put in and has been filed as an exhibit in the House. Mr. Grant has pledged his oath that upon the report, he thought the chances of success in unseating Gagey were small, having in mind the very large majority — 340 — which he obtained, for although there were some cases of gross irregularity yet there was no evidence of any organized general bribery and in face of the fact that there was no such evidence it was hopeless to attack a seat where the majority was so considerable. This was the information that was in his own possession when he came to negotiate with Mr. Bristol, who was acting in the matter on behalf of the Conservatives. Mr. Grant says, on page 1055, that on no occasion did he directly or indirectly discuss with Mr. Gagey anything about dropping his petition, and at pages 1062-3, he gives the account of how the petition against Mr. Gagey came to be dropped. He says that he and Mr. Bristol one acting for each party, met each Friday and that they met on the 19th, and 26th days of September, 1902. At these two meetings the agreement to drop the protest, not only in Manitoulin, but in several other constituencies was arrived at. Mr. Grant's account of this meeting with Mr. Bristol is given as follows, and should be assumed to be absolutely correct, as Mr. Bristol has not ventured to contradict it by giving evidence in any particular. Mr. Grant says:—

"Well, we started to make a list on either side and the list was made out and we were both sparring a little bit to get something else that each side wanted in, and, while the list was written out, the agreement to abide by that list was not reached at the first interview. If it was at all, it was on the 26th. It would not be sooner, because that was the next Friday when we had the next meeting.

"The list started in this way. Mr. Bristol asked me if I could drop West Hamilton, and I said, 'Well, what will go against that?' and he said, 'How will South Bruce do you?' I said, 'All right; put that down on the list. Then he explained to me that he had promised Mr. Carscallen that he would go along with Mr. Hendrie. That is, if Hendrie was let out he would be let out, and so that made East Hamilton the next one on the list. Well, I had made a promise regarding East Hamilton to one of my clients, so I had to put down South Norfolk opposite East Hamilton. Then I had to look after John Dickenson in South Wentworth.

"I told him I had helped him (Bristol) out, so I put South Wentworth down as the next one on that side of the page. Then I said, 'What are you going to put against South Wentworth.' He looked over the list and said, 'Well, why not put in Manitoulin? Mr. Gamey is a friend of mine, or a client of mine, and I would like to get him out.' Mr. Bristol said that. So I said, 'All right; put down Manitoulin,' and we went on in that way through the list.

Q.—We need not go through the rest of the list. Then Manitoulin was sawed off as against South Wentworth? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Had the letter signed in the presence of Mr. Aylsworth anything to do with this at all? A.—I NEVER HEARD OF IT, OR KNEW NOTHING OF IT, OR MR. AYLSWORTH EITHER.

Q.—Had you received any instructions from anybody? A.—No, that was the first and last regarding the saw-off of the Manitoulin election case.

Q.—That was either on the 19th or 26th of September? A.—Yes. I had no communication with any member of the Government in connection with it."

The charge in Mr. Grant's book for this work is shown at page 1,064 to be against the Ontario Liberal Association. So far as I am concerned that disposes of the protest. Mr. Grant swears that he did it absolutely and entirely upon his own responsibility, and as a saw-off against South Wentworth. I assume that to be the fact, otherwise Mr. Bristol would have been in the box to make explanations, and contradictions if con-

tradictions were possible, which they were not.

THE PATRONAGE CONSIDERED.

The only other inducement which it is alleged by anybody was held out by me or any of the members of the Government for the purpose of securing the support of Mr. Gamey is that he was to get the patronage. And so far as I am concerned, I have already sworn that I said to Mr. Gamey when he asked me about the patronage—in the light of the fact that he proposed to support the Government—stated to me that he was going to support the Government, had made up his mind and was determined that he would support the Government, I said to him:—

"When you are a supporter of the Government, your recommendations as to patronage will receive the same consideration as the recommendations of other supporters of the Government do receive."

And I may say to the honourable the leader of the Opposition, and every honourable member on the opposite side of the House, that the same statement holds good with regard to them. When they are supporters of the Government their recommendations as to the patronage shall receive the same consideration as the recommendations of other supporters of the Government. I have no palliation or excuse to make in regard to that. I conceived it to be in keeping with the ordinary rules of Parliamentary practice. That I held out the hope of patronage as a corrupt inducement to Mr. Gamey I utterly deny, and there is no evidence to show that I either promised or held out patronage to Mr. Gamey except his own unsupported oath, which has come to be considered too slender a thread to suspend anything by, which is of sufficient weight to warrant consideration from honest men. In reference to patronage I have only this to say, that Mr. Gamey made recommendations to my Department in reference to the License Commissioners, License Inspector, Lockup Keeper and Issuer of Marriage Licenses. In none of these matters did I think it proper to meet his views, and none of these appointments which he desired in my Department were made. A great deal of time was spent during the investi-

gation in going over the correspondence. So far as I am concerned I never wrote a letter to the member for Manitoulin except on the 2nd day of October. I wrote him neither before nor since. Two letters of that date are on file, and the principal objection that has been made to them is that one of them is addressed to "My dear Gamey" and the other is addressed to "My dear Sir." Perhaps the House and the country will think that is not an objection of so grave a character as would warrant the honourable member and those who were behind him in putting the country to so large expense as has been incurred in this matter. I frankly confess that I see nothing improper in the letters, and so far as that part of the case is concerned Mr. Gamey was handed the letters when upon his oath and asked to point out a single syllable of evidence of corruption or wrong-doing in any one of all the letters, and his answer was that he could not do so. If he, with all his cunning and knowledge of the alleged facts, and what was in his own mind, is not able to find any improper suggestion in any of these letters, I do not know of any reason why I should think myself capable of seeing any impropriety in them. As to the correspondence with the Departments of the other members of the Government, it is not part of my duty to further explain or comment upon it, though it is evidently of a similar innocent character.

MR. GAMEY'S BANK BOOK WITHHELD.

Now, I desire to return to a remark that I made during the evening with regard to Mr. Gamey's books not having been submitted to counsel or the court; and in connection therewith I desire to repeat and to emphasize what I stated in my remarks last evening. I have examined the exhibits filed with the Court and I cannot find nor place my hand upon the exhibits that I said had not been submitted to the Court. Mr. Gamey has the list of exhibits, and I would be glad if he would show to the House any evidence whatever that the books named were submitted to the Court. My bank books, my private accounts,

my cheques, my notes, my every transaction from the 1st of August to the 1st of March, were submitted to the severest criticism, and to the closest scrutiny of the counsel for the prosecution. They were nearly three days going into this matter, and into the accounts of the companies that I am connected with. I desire to call the attention of the House and the country to the statement made by Mr. Gamey when in the witness box in regard to these matters. When asked by Mr. Johnston, my counsel, if he had his bank book, he replied that he had, and when asked to produce it he produced a Gore Bay bank book, which showed nothing, except from the 1st of March, 1903 and subsequently. When asked where was his bank book prior to that time he replied that he guessed it was at home or in the bank, adding, "This is the only one that they gave me." Fancy counsel of the ability of Mr. Blake and Mr. Ritchie allowing the prosecution to submit bank books from the first of March of the present year to prove transactions that were alleged to have occurred on the 9th, 10th or 11th of September last and on the 29th January last. (Applause.) These things

WERE ABSOLUTELY USELESS.

They knew they were useless, and they have, so far as my knowledge goes, up to this time not produced the books that might have given us additional information upon the important question as to where the money came from.

Mr. Gamey.—Just let me make one remark. The defence subpoenaed the banker from Gore Bay, and their books were brought down here and their books were left with the senior Counsel for the defence, Mr. Johnston, in his possession. They had every possible access to those books, examined every item in my account, and had every facility to put Mr. Hurst into the witness box if they wanted to; they had every knowledge of every amount and had knowledge of everything connected with my account at Gore Bay.

Hon. Mr. Stratton.—Mr. Speaker, the statement I made this morning I am ready to repeat; it was absolutely true and correct. (Ministerial applause.) If the member who

makes these serious charges had not the fear of there being something in his Gore Bay bank account that was directly contradictory of his statement in the House and his statement in the witness box why didn't he put the bank manager in the witness box himself? (Applause.) He could have there shown by the bank books, if I am informed since correctly, that the statement of Mr. Gamey would be entirely contradicted by the evidence produced by the account as was shown in Court.

I pointed out yesterday, in dealing with the correspondence that when the correspondence was handed to Mr. Gamey in the witness box, and when he was asked by the counsel for the defence, to point out one improper syllable in the whole correspondence from the various members of the Government, his answer was that he could not do so; and I repeat that he cannot, and that no one else who desires to construe those letters on the merits of the letters, can show that there was any improper or underlying impression that could be gathered from those letters in regard to my own, or any other member of the Government's, actions.

LETTERS OF MINISTERS NOT IMPROPER.

I say without fear of contradiction that with anyone attempting even to play the role that Mr. Gamey says he was playing in this case, it is perhaps a miracle that where there was such an effort to extract letters from the various Ministers, that some references, some loose sentences, were not contained in some of the letters, that might be misconstrued to the disadvantage of myself or the Government in this particular instance. (Applause.) I say, Sir, that the correspondence produced will show the absolute propriety of the correspondence between the members of the Government and the member who corresponded with them; and that if it is blameworthy at all it is on the part of the Government in dealing as generously and as pleasantly and as promptly as was done with the correspondence of the member for Manitoulin. Now, Mr. Speaker, I desire to refer to the Piano Factory incident.

THE PIANO FACTORY INCIDENT.

What occurred at the Cross-

sin Piano Factory was not evidence that might be admitted in any court of law, but it was evidence that might be admitted in this particular case, and it was admitted to have whatever possible effect it might have against myself or the Government. But, sir, if Mr. Gamey chooses to traffic in his own honour, if he attempts to purloin public property of this province, and if he desires to discuss his turpitude with Frank Sullivan in a piano factory, in a dark room, on a wet and rainy night, how is that going to affect me, or how is it going to affect the members of this Government? (Ministerial applause.)

I say, Mr. Speaker, without fear of contradiction, that what occurred in the piano factory in no way compromises me in connection with the charges made. I am not responsible, and will not be responsible, for Mr. Gamey's and Mr. Sullivan's discussion in a dark room on a rainy night. I am under no obligation to Frank Sullivan; he is under no obligation to me. I neither fear him, nor as I suppose does he fear me. I never had a transaction with him either good, bad or indifferent. I never asked him to do anything for me in any manner shape or form; and if, he tells the truth he will say nothing to the contrary. (Applause.) Then why should I ask him to do something for me of the character which has been attributed to me by the member for Manitoulin? The only thing that was pretended by the evidence in the piano factory was that Mr. Sullivan compromised himself there, that his veracity was broken down by the evidence of the young men that were placed behind the pianos that evening. If that is so, then the statements made by him have no weight against me; and if the statements made by Mr. Sullivan in the witness box are truthful, then they exonerate me entirely, and they are more likely to be true under oath than what he says when he and the member for Manitoulin are planning and concocting their scheme in the piano factory. If he tells the truth anywhere he is more likely to tell it under oath in the witness box than in any other place. Then if his evidence is untruthful, if his evidence is to be considered as unreliable, his statements

cannot hurt me, and they cannot hurt the Government. I think that is absolutely sound reasoning. (Hear, hear.) If his statements made in one place are to be used against me, then they cannot be used in the witness box in the way in which they are sought to be used by hon. members opposite.

SULLIVAN HAD NO AUTHORITY.

I deny most positively that Mr. Sullivan had any authority to act for me with Mr. Gamey; that he had any intimacy with me at any time or on any occasion with regard to that; and I say that his oath is as likely to be true as to what occurred in the piano factory, as is the story that was alleged to have been made up on that particular night. Why did Mr. Gamey say in the piano factory "that it was important that that their stories must be right in case of future trouble?" Why was that, Mr. Speaker? Why was Mr. Sullivan offered \$2,000 to "hold up" the Government? Mr. Sullivan stated in the witness box that he had been offered that by Mr. Gamey, and had been told by Mr. Gamey that Mr. McPherson would provide the money. Mr. McPherson was not put in the box to deny or to discredit Mr. Sullivan's oath in that regard; and Mr. Gamey did not feel warranted in denying the statement when he was recalled to the box by the Commission—when he was asked if he had anything to say, if he had any statement to make. Was Mr. Sullivan enticed to the Crossin piano factory for the purpose of making his evidence useful? Was it for evidentiary purposes that he was asked to go there on that particular night? Or was it "to agree upon a story" to "hold up" the Government? If it was the former, if he was asked to go to the Piano Factory for evidentiary purposes, for the purpose of identifying the Government or myself with this money, then I say that the questions that were asked by Mr. Gamey on that occasion were simple and foolish questions; but the questions that might have been asked, that might have been of some use and of some importance to him in this important case were not asked. (Applause.)

SCHEME TO CONCOCT A STORY.

If they were there for the purpose

of concocting a story, as I believe they were, then their talk there is understandable. But Mr. Gamey leads the country and this Legislature to believe he and Sullivan were there that night for the purpose of getting corroborative evidence of Sullivan's connection with the Government, and of the efforts made to bribe the honorable member. If that be so, why did he not ask Mr. Sullivan something about the money? The money is the whole crux of this charge. (Hear, hear.) Outside of the money transaction, as the late lamented Mr. Pope once said, "There's nothin' to it," and if their desire was to get some evidence in regard to the matter which would be of use, and which would be fatal, why didn't he ask Mr. Sullivan, "What about the money?" "What did you do with your \$1,500?" "Where did you deposit it?" "What monetary institution did you put it in?" If those questions had been asked they might have got some valuable information. If Sullivan had not the money, and Mr. Gamey's second statement in the box was true that he had borrowed \$1,200 from Sullivan on an I.O.U., then I say why didn't he ask him what he did with the I.O.U.? He could have given him a handsome surprise if his story was true, by asking him to bring the I. O. U. up to the Parliament Buildings to-morrow evening at five o'clock, and there and then he would give him the money and take over the I. O. U. after he had made his "explosion," after he had made his speech in the Legislature. But I say, sir, and it must be satisfactory and clear to every hon. member in this House that Mr. Gamey and Mr. Sullivan were not at the Piano Factory for the purpose of obtaining evidence against the Government or against myself, but they were there for the purpose of concocting a story that would perhaps crush the Minister and precipitate the overthrow of the Government. That was the sole intention and desire of those men on that evening in March, because the answer by Mr. Sullivan to any of those questions that I have put, would have been fatal to the Government if those statements had been true. (Applause.)

MINISTER OF MINES.

Then, Sir, why did they discuss on

that occasion what Mr. Gamey could get when he became Minister of Mines? Mr. Gamey stated in the witness box that he never mentioned Minister of Mines. He stated that distinctly and positively. Why? Was it because he did not mention it? Two of his own witnesses say he did mention it. Or was it because it disclosed one of the motives for his atrocious conduct? Mr. W. H. Price, when asked about the interview, said that Gamey said, "You see Frank, if I was made Minister of Mines on the Tory side you could give me a lot of information," and Frank said, "Yes, I could." (Hear, hear.) Mr. Percy Price said that Gamey said, "If I became Minister of Mines we could arrange things all right. He says, you could get evidence for me — at least I am not quite sure about this point anyway, but you could get evidence for me," — we would be able to despoil the Province, we would have the timber limits and the mines in New Ontario when I became Minister of Mines. And Mr. Sullivan was willing to go in with him to unite his efforts with Mr. Gamey's help as Minister of Mines, to despoil the Government. I can produce the evidence of Mr. Sullivan, but I will not. I will leave it to the House and the country on the evidence of the two witnesses that Mr. Gamey placed behind the piano boxes in the factory. But, why must these stories agree? If the statement were true, there was no trouble in having the stories agree. But the real story sworn to by Mr. Gamey was not mentioned on that particular occasion. No mention of \$1000 for the Globe interview. No mention of \$1200 borrowed from Sullivan. Why, the large part of the money transaction was not mentioned.

LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE.

Now, sir, Mr. Gamey and Mr. Sullivan, I have no doubt, were determined to utilize the knowledge that they had obtained of politicians and public affairs, and to use Mr. Gamey's position as the member for Manitoulin to advance their own interests as best they could, to traffic for Gamey in the public property of the Province. That was their desire. And that is what Mr. Sullivan candidly and frankly stated in the witness box, and if it was not the case

I hardly think that he would have said so. I don't think that either of them cared whether Mr. Whitney was premier or Mr. Ross was premier. (Hear, hear.) Whether the Conservative party was in power or whether the Liberal party was in power. Their desire was to make money, and when Mr. Gamey became Minister of Mines on the downfall of the Minister and the Government, then the patronage and the franchises would go to the gentlemen who hoped and were expecting to have the opportunity of going after them. Mr. Kinney, who was another piano factory witness, says Gamey gave them to unders and that if they did not get what they wanted from one side they could get it from the other side. If Gamey was not getting from one Government, Gamey could get from another Government. And, sir, the ambition of this gentleman with Mr. Sullivan as his confederate against the Government, shows the motive they had in view in connection with the interview, and the discussion, that took place on that particular night. They do not deny that they thought they could hold me up, on a proper story, for \$100,000; that is what Mr. Kinney stated in the box. But I think they would find when they commenced on an enterprise of that kind that it was not as easy obtaining the \$100,000 as it was to speak of it in such a place and at such a time and in such a way as they did.

EVIDENCE OF FABRICATION.

Then, sir, Mr. Sullivan denies that the discussion that took place there on that evening was anything but a fabricating discussion; that these gentlemen were concocting their stories—were reciting their stories for the purpose of their being able to "hold up" the Minister and the Government. (Hear, hear.) And I am inclined to believe that that statement of Sullivan is absolutely true and correct. He says that he was at the Minister's office every day. Everybody knows that that is not true, who knows anything about the department. Mr. Sullivan said there that night, (but swore in the box he never saw any of it,) that he saw all the correspondence. He never saw any of the correspondence in my office, to my knowledge, and my private secretary says that he

never showed him any of the correspondence, and Sullivan swore in the box that the information he obtained with regard to certain matters in Manitoulin was obtained by his father at the Walker House, from the men who had been down from Manitoulin, and who had been discussing these matters with members of the Government. If the piano factory interview was real and truthful, why did Mr. Gamey say to this Legislature that he had three shorthand writers there taking question and answer, and that when the proper time arrived he would be able to show to this House and to the country the evidence of the truthfulness of those statements that were made? There was, as a matter of fact, not a short-hand note taken that night. With every particular statement that has been made to this legislature by the member for Manitoulin, he has deceived his own friends on the opposite side of the House—(Hear, hear, and loud applause from the Government benches)—deceived the very men whom he expects to stand by him on this occasion.

AN ALL-ROUND DECEIVER.

And he knows that what I am saying is absolutely true and correct, that he has deceived every hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House, and not satisfied with that he has deceived the counsel that were protecting him in the Courts. Then he expects the people of this Province to believe the statements that he has made with regard to the shorthand writers and their notes, and the other ghost stories he told in this House. We remember the spectacular display that took place with respect to those mythical notes. They were put into a packet, it was sealed up, and we had to threaten proceedings in the Courts, before the packet was opened and we were given an opportunity of seeing what it contained. And what did it contain? It contained a recital of one of the young men who never took a note on the evening in question. (Hear, hear.) They swore that they took no notes, but that they had recited and committed afterwards to give the statement that they did in the witness box, and it was very easy for any one watching the case to

see that when they got away from—
 "Little drops of water, little grains of sand,
 Make the mighty ocean and the beautiful land."

They were lost when they got over the little story—the little recitation—they were lost when they were punctured by interrogations as to what occurred first, and what occurred second and what occurred third, they were absolutely dumbfounded at times, and the three of their stories did not agree. What I say, Mr. Speaker, is that the evidence of the piano factory is entirely against Mr. Gamey; that the witnesses he brought there himself are witnesses against him; that the story concocted there by himself and Mr. Sullivan was for a plot, and that the next day or that evening Mr. Sullivan disconnected himself from the plot and he left Mr. Gamey to play it out by himself.

NO RELATIONS WITH JONES AND SULLIVAN.

Then, Sir, I say that there is no evidence of any kind of any relationship with me in connection with either Mr. Jones and Sullivan on the one side, or Jones, and Sullivan and the members of the Government. I say that I never saw Mr. Jones, I never spoke to Mr. Jones, I had no communication directly or indirectly with Mr. Jones on any occasion in connection with Mr. Gamey. In connection with Mr. Sullivan I of course saw him when he introduced Mr. Gamey to me on the 9th September. There is no question about the date being the 9th September; it is very important the House and to the country that there is no question of doubt about that. It is fixed. Mr. Gamey fixed it on the 9th and 10th in the House; but Mr. Aylesworth's letter on the 10th stopped him, and then he advanced his day from the 10th to the 11th; and so he got himself into trouble again. But, Sir, I saw Mr. Gamey on the 9th. Leaving my evidence and Mr. Gamey's evidence out, that is corroborated by Mr. Aylesworth whom I met in the corridor and spoke to on the evening of the 9th. There is no question of my having on the evening of the 9th spoken to Mr. Aylesworth; there is no question of doubt about my

seeing him on the 9th and telling him the conversation that had taken place between myself and Mr. Gamey, when he suggested the letter; and there is no question about Mr. Gamey having signed that letter upon the 10th in Mr. Aylesworth's office; and it is of the utmost importance to show that by no possibility could Mr. Gamey's story be true in connection therewith. The evidence is altogether the other way.

MR. GAMEY'S POLITICAL VACILLATION.

Now, sir, I say that up to the 24th February, from the time prior to Mr. Gamey's election, I believe that he was running as a Conservative; that he would prefer supporting Mr. Whitney in power to supporting Mr. Whitney out of power; but he would prefer supporting Mr. Ross and his Government in power, to supporting Mr. Whitney in Opposition; and I believe that the course that he pursued prior to the election, subsequent to the election, and his connection with me, prove conclusively that that was his position. At the same time I believe that he was playing hide-and-go-seek between the Government and the Opposition, and that up till the bye-elections in the three Norths, he was not absolutely satisfied in his own mind as to just the seat he would occupy when he came down to the floor of the Legislature. His position seemed consistent up till the 24th February, that he was going to give the Government his support, if they had a reasonable majority, but between the 24th February and the 9th March he hears that agents were sent by the Government to McMillan to see if he would run in case Mr. Gamey was forced to retire. That was about the end of February. He learned for the first time from what he thought were reliable sources, that the Government were taking active steps against him; but I can inform the gentleman from Manitoulin that the Government were taking no steps against him; that nothing was being done against him. We were not giving any attention to him. We did not know where he was or where he would be; we were not caring where he was or

where he would be. (Hear, hear.) We never sent any delegates to Mr. McMillan, either one way or the other, but Gamey says he learned that that was the position of the Government, and, sir, that was his turning point. That was where he turned, and he made up his mind to play the patriot, he made up his mind to play the part of saviour of his province; he made up his mind that he was going to send the Liberal party up in an explosion; that corresponds exactly in the item of time with the statement that he made, that it took two weeks, ending about the 8th of March, to write his statement on the banks of the Manitoulin.

BEGINNING OF CONCOCTION.

He fixes the date about the 24th February, when he began to concoct his story, and he found himself in the position that he had no incriminating evidence; he had nothing to connect the Government with the story or the plot; it was absolutely necessary to get a strong story, and one that would hang together; it was necessary to get something that would be corroborated; hence he interviewed Mr. Frank Sullivan when he came to the city, and he got these men together in the piano factory, when they would be able, if at all possible, to extract something from Sullivan that might be used in connection with the story that he was putting together. But, sir, when he found that the story that he had concocted would not hang together, when he found that Mr. Sullivan would not enter into any such scheme as his, then it was that in some mysterious way never yet explained, pages 8 and 14 were taken from the story written while burning the midnight oil in the depths of Manitoulin, and new pages were inserted, written with different ink, at a different time and on different paper, and those are the pages that deal with the transactions that are alleged to have occurred on the 9th, 10th, or 11th September, and the 29th of January, and at the piano factory. (Applause.) I say, sir, that no darker suspicion could be cast upon the story of the member for Manitoulin than his actions in having these pages changed in the way in which they were. 1

say that the greatest interest attached to the two weeks that intervened between the 24th February and the time of his coming down to the House; that was the time that he concocted his story, the time when he came to Toronto when he had

THE STORY FIXED IN AND FITTED UP

and balanced up as well as he could with a view to make the statement. The member for Manitoulin never expected that that statement would go before a Royal Commission of Judges. He never expected that it would go before a tribunal such as was appointed by this Government or he never would have submitted a statement to the Legislature which has been so exploded, as a result of having been so fully investigated by the learned Commission. There is no evidence from the piano factory interview. It proves nothing. Most of the statements made there are now known to be absolutely untrue. It is manifestly a concoction, and the only memo. that Gamey made on that particular occasion was that he wrote the name "Chase" in his note book. (Laughter.)

Now, sir, I have dealt as briefly as I felt the circumstances would warrant with the case as I felt it affected me, and I come now to another matter which is of importance and which was dwelt on a good deal by the leader of the opposition yesterday and by the press in this country. But just before doing that I will clear up another matter which was befogged by the leader of the Opposition yesterday. He said that the Counsel for the prosecution referred to the gray hairs of the Premier, and that the Commission were appealed to for the benefit of the doubt. My hon. friend is again mistaken. If he turns to page 65 of Mr. Johnston's address before the Commission he will find that he said:—

"Here again let me say that the charge involved in the statement made by Mr. Gamey is a criminal charge, a charge that must be proved beyond reasonable doubt; and I am not claiming the benefit of the doubt for any member of the Government whom I represent." (hear, hear.)

HEARSAY EVIDENCE NOT PRACTICABLE.

And, Sir, he makes some reference to evidence that was excluded, and

I have no doubt that he refers to the evidence that was being submitted of Mr. Leavitt, and some persons from Rochester with regard to certain alleged statements that Mr. Wilson had made to some person in Rochester, or some person else had made. If the judges were going to open up the evidence as to what Mr. Gamey had said to some one, or Mr. Stratton had said to some one, or any member of this House had said to some one and some one had said to some one else, we would have a Commission of such length and expense as would ruin and bankrupt the Province, because there never was a question that was as much discussed in this Province, or so thoroughly read as the literature in connection with the charges that were made on the 11th of March; and if all the people that had heard or said something connected directly or indirectly in these cases were summoned there would be no end of the evidence. But, Sir, for the benefit of the leader of the Opposition I may say that we have communicated with the police of Rochester in regard to one of the witnesses that they desired to put in the box, and the police say that his neighbours will have nothing to do with him, that he is a loafer, who does nothing apparently for a livelihood; and that is the style of men that they offered to put in the box to substantiate something against a poor old man who did not know the name of a single member of the Government, who had gone, as he said, on a visit to his old home, that he had not visited for over 52 years. Now, Mr. Speaker,

THERE IS ONE CRUMB OF COMFORT

to hon. gentlemen. It is an infinitesimally small crumb, it is true, but, sir, they are making the best out of it that they can possibly make—and I now refer to the matter of my remarks made to Mr. Hammond of the Globe. I desire first and above all, to be perfectly frank about it, and say that I have no fault to find with the statement made by Mr. Hammond, or the manner in which he made that statement in the witness box, or out of it. Mr. Hammond came to me on the 28th January in my office. We were discussing in my office interviews that were ap-

pearing in the papers, in regard to the grant given by Mr. Carnegie for library purposes to the city of Toronto, and other places. We were discussing at the same time the attitude of the Globe in regard to the Toronto and Niagara Power Company: and on the very same day Mr. Gamey gave Mr. Hammond the Globe interview, I gave him an interview—and I think it appeared in the Mail as well—in regard to the Toronto and Niagara Power Company. I had several discussions with Mr. Hammond in regard to the attitude of the Globe to the Government on that important question. I had written communications to the Globe, or was about writing, and discussing with Mr. Hammond communications to the Globe under the nom de plume of "Taxpayer," criticising the Globe for the attitude it had taken in this matter. The Globe criticised my articles severely, as they had every right to do, as I had every right to write to the press in connection therewith. When Mr. Hammond gave his statement of evidence to Mr. Johnston, it contained four closely written pages relating to Mr. Gamey, relating to Mr. Carnegie, and relating to the Toronto and Niagara Power Company. I thought to myself, what use is there in giving this evidence to the country in regard to my actions or sayings to the Globe upon unconnected questions aside from this matter altogether, (hear, hear,) and matters that were entirely irrelevant, matters that had nothing to do in any manner, shape or form, but which Mr. Hammond, in his own judgment—and he had a perfect right to exercise it—gave in his statement to Mr. Johnston? I did not go to Mr. Hammond; Mr. Hammond did not come to me. After a sitting of the House one evening we were going along the corridor, and I said, "I saw your statement given to Mr. Johnston, it contains a lot of matter—can't you forget some of that stuff?" And he said, "Perhaps I can." (Opposition laughter and "Hear, hear.") That is the way that every statement has been misconstrued and misapplied by hon. gentlemen in connection with this matter. (Government cheers.) I will resign my seat tomorrow if Mr. Hammond will say I

asked him to withhold one iota of the facts of the Gamey case. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Whitney—Not withhold—forget.

Hon. Mr. Stratton—Or forget. (Ministerial applause.)

I will resign my seat if Mr. Hammond will say that in any way on account of the statement that I made he withheld anything he knew in connection with the Gamey charges. (Applause.)

Mr. Whitney—He did not withhold.

Hon. Mr. Stratton—No; he did not withhold it. Then if he did not withhold it, what is all the talk about?

Mr. Whitney—What you wanted him to do.

Hon. Mr. Stratton—I did not ask him to withhold anything. I asked him if he could not forget—not bring up matters that were irrelevant and were entirely disconnected with and had no bearing whatever upon this case—(Ministerial applause)—and hon. gentlemen are welcome to the crumb of comfort that they may be able to get out of the statement made by Mr. Hammond on that occasion. Mr. Hammond withheld no information. The public have all the information that he had with regard to that. Now, let me refer to what Mr. Hammond made reference to at the time when the interview was handed to him by Mr. Gamey. When asked the question, "What did Mr. Stratton say," Mr. Hammond said:—

"He said it was not as it had left him."

"Q.—Anything further? A.—He wanted to strike that out."

"Q.—Why was it not struck out? A.—Because I said I had acted in good faith with Mr. Gamey and I would not strike it out."

"Q.—Anything further? A.—Mr. Stratton offered to call Mr. Gamey back from the west end of the building, by that time he was probably still in the building, and confer with him. He did not do so, however."

"Q.—Did he make an effort to do so? A.—No, His next observation was I think that he could not expect anything more than that from a man elected as a Liberal. Words to that effect."

Now, the leader of the Opposition as a lawyer knows, and the lawyers in this House know, that it cannot be

expected that men who are not placing themselves in a position to obtain evidence can remember absolutely what occurred six months prior unless there was something particular connected with it that took place on the occasion. Now, Mr. Hammond gave as straightforward evidence as a man could give. I have no fault to find with it in any way. But Mr. Hammond, like all others, who gave evidence at the time, was somewhat, and doubtless, innocently, mistaken in his facts. What he said was, in his first examination, when asked, "At all events you did not interview him in the sense of asking him any questions? No." Now, nobody would say that Mr. Hammond was perjuring himself because of that, but Mr. Hammond was mistaken in that case, for if you turn up the Globe newspaper of that day you will see that there was quite a lengthy interview between Mr. Gamey and Mr. Hammond that was added to the interview that had been suggested by Mr. Gamey and which had been altered to suit Mr. Gamey's own purpose. The conversation took place between Mr. Hammond and Mr. Gamey in the ante room of my private office; and the subject consisted of matters entirely foreign to any information that I had—information which Mr. Hammond elicited from Mr. Gamey, useful information, in regard to Manitoulin, and it was published in connection with the interview in question. I wish to have it distinctly understood that I find no fault with the statement made by Mr. Hammond, that there was nothing improper in the suggestion I made to him; Mr. Hammond himself does not think there was anything improper in the suggestion. He withheld no information that he possessed; there was nothing for him to withhold; there was nothing occurred for him to withhold. He answered his questions candidly, and with that I am satisfied, and hon. gentlemen opposite are welcome to all the satisfaction that they may extract from the circumstances. And, now, Mr. Speaker, I have done with regard to the evidence, but I wish to make a few concluding observations.

MR. STRATTON'S CONCLUSION.

The findings of the Royal Commissioners I accept without any feeling of triumph or personal boast, and in

the same spirit as I hope they will be accepted by my friends in this House and in the country. I was content to have the charges preferred against me investigated and tried by any tribunal chosen by the Legislature. No one free from prejudice doubted that the conclusion would be that which the evidence warranted. The learned judges who sat as Commissioners have found that I am innocent of the serious charges made against me by a member of this House. The charges gravely affected my position as a Minister of the Crown, my standing as a member of the Legislature and my character as a citizen of Ontario. I met them at the proper time and place. I desired the fullest enquiry and sought the closest investigation. (Applause.) The consequences were of greater importance to me than to any other member of the Government. It is true that the political life of the Government was endangered, but my whole business and personal career depended upon the result. Yet throughout the long and trying investigation which was made, I never feared nor faltered. (Applause.) Considering that my relations with the member who made the accusations, would bear the most careful scrutiny and feeling secure in the ultimate triumph of truth, I bore with patience the abuse of the Tory press and never flinched under the 'ash of the Tory hireling. Long before the accusations had the sanctity of an oath, however worthless, to support them, I was condemned and pronounced guilty by my opponents. The average fair play which is given to the worst and meanest criminal was denied me. Every fact was tortured, every circumstance was coloured, every act was purposely misconstrued in order to destroy my character as a public man and as a private citizen, and all this was done with a greedy delight far beyond the lines of decency and honest self-respect on the part of my enemies. (Applause.)

HE STOOD HIS GROUND.

At length in the halls of justice I met my accuser. I stood my ground whilst he fled. (Loud applause.) I had everything to lose. He had everything to gain. I, at least played no part of the coward, shrink-

ing from justice. I waited in silence while some of those who had once called themselves friends doubted my innocence. When called on for my answer I was ready. There was no mutilation of books, no fabrication of documents, no fleeing from the terrors of the law on my part. (Applause.) The records of my private life were laid bare to my enemies. Not a page was found missing, not a leaf bore evidence of the hand of the despoiler. The sanctity of my family relations was not spared. Business dealings with my fellowmen were openly laid on the dissecting table and every item of my personal transactions was willingly offered as a sacrifice to the knife of my accuser. I asked for no favours, sought no man's intervention, save the assistance of counsel, and claimed no protection from first to last in this long trial. (Applause.)

NOW IS MY DAY OF REWARD.

To-day I have my reward, and I accept that reward more gratefully in the interest of the good name of my native province than as a vindication of my own personal honour. The attempt to cast a stain on the fair name of Ontario has miserably failed. The strenuous effort made to destroy the character and wreck the future of myself, has met with a like defeat. (Applause.) The judgment of the Royal Commissioners may not be able to undo all the wrong that has been done to me and mine, and may not

effectually silence the tongue of the slanderer, or stay the pen of the needy libeller, but it will be a source of gratification to the many friends who have stood loyally by me in these months of shadow and suspense to know that their confidence was not unfounded. Such friends will be gratefully remembered throughout the years God may give me to enjoy, but by no one of them with that great feeling of affection and thankfulness which I owe to my esteemed friend the Premier of this province, whose faith was never shaken for a moment and whose sympathy for me never wavered in the hours of greatest adversity. (Applause.) I feel no resentment against those of my opponents who have been misled, for the great wrong they have endeavoured to do me. And I would say to my accusers that I hope they will learn as a result of their experience in this matter that falsehood works its own revenge, and deceit brings its own just punishment." (Long and continued applause.)

Mr. Stratton concluded his speech at noon, after speaking altogether about four hours. He spoke in a confident, aggressive strain, and frequently aroused the enthusiasm of the Liberal members in the House. The Premier stepped down to the Provincial Secretary's seat and shook hands with Mr. Stratton, whereat the Liberal members broke into applause again, although by this time another speaker had begun.

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